1877.

VICTORIA.

MINERAL STATISTICS OF VICTORIA

FOR THE YEAR

1876.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.

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MEMORANDUM.

The non-discovery of new areas of auriferous drift during the past year and the want of water for sluicing operations, caused by the extreme dryness of the season, have operated prejudicially upon the yield of alluvial gold.

It is gratifying to find that the quartz obtained from the deeper levels of our vein mines continues to give satisfactory yields. This should act as an incentive to the further exploration of those neglected mines which gave satisfactory returns of gold at shallow levels.

WILLIAM McLELLAN,
Minister of Mines.

Office of Mines,
Melbourne, 28th February 1877.

MINERAL STATISTICS, 1876.

The duty of collecting statistical and other mining information for publication in this Report and in the Quarterly Reports has been assiduously performed by the officers of the Department, and the returns for the past year are more nearly complete than has hitherto been the case. The Department is again indebted to mine owners, mine managers, managers of banks, and others for assistance courteously given to its officers by granting them access to their books, and otherwise furnishing information required for the compilation of the returns.

Over one million tons of quartz are included in the returns this year—the exact quantity is 1,011,808 tons 4 cwt.—which is the largest quantity of quartz yet returned in any one year. The reluctance displayed by mine owners, in years past, to the publication of the results of their crushing operations either now no longer exists or exists but in isolated cases.

The total yield of gold in the returns of quartz, quartz tailings, and pyrites crushed and treated now approaches so nearly to the estimated amount of gold raised from quartz reefs as to afford very satisfactory proof of the accuracy of the several estimates, and there can be but little doubt that they are very nearly correct. There are no such means of checking the estimated yield of alluvial gold, in consequence of so few of the mine owners in this branch of mining keeping records of the amount of washdirt and cement passed through the machines.

The estimates of gold raised in Victoria during the years 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, and 1876 are as follow :—

——	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
	ozs. dwts. grs.	ozs. dwts. grs.	ozs. dwts. grs.	ozs. dwts. grs.	ozs. dwts. grs.
Exported, according to returns furnished by the Hon. the Commissioner of Trade and Customs ...	1,160,554 19 0	1,115,987 14 0	904,154 0 0	709,934 18 0	506,345 6 0
Received at the Melbourne branch of the Royal Mint	121,965 17 0	*125,217 4·0	251,817 19 0	385,852 3 0	427,878 16 0
Raised, according to estimates made by the Mining Registrars ...	1,331,377 18 0	1,170,397 12 0	1,097,644 0 0	1,068,418 0 0	963,760 0 0
Purchased, according to returns made by managers of banks and others	1,218,094 9 0	1,162,492 14 0	1,105,115 0 0	1,077,276 5 5	949,468 12 17

* An error occurred in the return obtained from the Mint of gold received at that establishment during the year 1873, which is now corrected.

The estimates for the past year show that the yield of gold is less by 100,000 ozs. than the quantity raised in 1875. As the balances of gold retained by the banks vary at the close of each year, so do the returns of gold exported differ from the produce for each year.

The estimated yields of gold from alluvial and from quartz mines, as prepared by the Mining Registrars, since the year 1867, are given below :—

	Alluvial.	Quartz.
	ozs.	ozs.
In 1868 the estimate was	1,087,502 ...	597,416
1869 „ „	934,082 ...	610,674
1870 „ „	718,729 ...	585,575
1871 „ „	698,190 ...	670,752
1872 „ „	639,551 ...	691,826
1873 „ „	504,250 ...	666,147
1874 „ „	433,283 ...	664,360
1875 „ „	426,611 ...	641,806
1876 „ „	357,901 ...	605,859

From these figures it will be seen that during the past nine years the quantity of gold obtained from the alluvial deposits has fallen off annually, and that the yield of last year is less by two-thirds than the yield in 1868. The general decrease is due to the gradual and inevitable exhaustion of the gold in the drifts of the first discovered gold fields, and to the non-discovery of new mining areas of sufficient importance to compensate for the reduced yields of the older fields. The yield of gold from quartz mines has fluctuated between 585,575 ozs., the minimum in 1870, and 691,826 ozs., the maximum in 1872.

Yield of gold from quartz.

The yields of gold in 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, and in 1876, from certain parcels of vein-quartz, respecting which the Registrars have obtained information, were as shown below :—

Year.	Crushed or Treated.	Produce.	Average per Ton.
	tons cwt.	ozs. dwts. grs.	ozs. dwts. grs.
1872	954,571 2	568,381 17 14	0 11 21·81
1873	991,673 19	567,214 7 2	0 11 10·55
1874	967,069 9	573,220 17 5	0 11 20·51
1875	949,468 12	565,561 10 10	0 11 21·92
1876	1,011,808 4	534,328 6 19	0 10 13·48

In 1862, 567,208 tons of quartz were crushed, which gave an average yield of 10 dwts. 22 grs. per ton. Since then the lowest average yield per ton was in 1870, when it was shown to be 9 dwts. 21·05 grs.

Although the average yield of gold per ton has been less in 1876 than during the preceding five years a reference to the statistics for the past fifteen years shows that it is about the mean for that period ; and it is worthy of remark, that the quantity of quartz included in the returns last year is nearly double that returned in 1862, and that the quartz has been raised from greater depths.

Yield of gold from quartz tailings, mullock, &c.

The following table shows the quantities of quartz tailings, mullock, &c., crushed and treated, and the results obtained therefrom, during the last five years:—

Year.	Quartz Tailings, Mullock, &c., Crushed.	Produce.	Average per Ton.
	tons cwt.	ozs. dwts. grs.	ozs. dwts. grs.
1872 ...	67,182 15	8,972 14 23	0 2 16·11
1873 ...	25,387 0	2,880 0 5	0 2 6·45
1874 ...	69,439 0	6,866 11 10	0 1 23·46
1875 ...	31,299 0	4,432 15 23	0 2 19·98
1876 ...	34,628 7	3,281 10 22	0 1 21·49

Yield of gold from pyrites, &c.

The quantities of pyrites, blanketings, &c., treated during the past five years, and the gold obtained, were as follow:—

Year.	Pyrites and Blanketings Treated.	Produce.	Average per Ton.
	tons cwt.	ozs. dwts. grs.	ozs. dwts. grs.
1872 ...	5,008 18	13,636 8 0	2 14 10·83
1873 ...	5,568 0	15,887 17 8	2 17 1·64
1874 ...	6,725 15	18,941 14 13	2 16 7·82
1875 ...	7,499 5	18,565 18 2	2 9 12·34
1876 ...	7,057 3	17,538 19 21	2 9 16·93

The quantity of pyrites and blanketings operated on during the past year is a little less than the quantity treated during 1875 ; the average yield of gold per ton is about the same. Over 5,000 tons were treated in the Sandhurst district alone. Ararat is the only mining district not represented in this return. See Tables Nos. 24 and 25.

Since the year 1869, when the first returns relating to the treatment of pyrites were published, 40,001 tons 17 cwt. have been operated on, and 106,655 ozs. 18 dwts. 13 grs. of gold have been extracted, equal to an average of 2 ozs. 13 dwts. 7·81 grs. per ton.

In order to obtain fuller information respecting the pyrites works existing at the close of the year 1876, I caused circulars to be sent to the Mining Registrars, requesting them to supply such authentic information respecting these works as they could gather, and the result, as shown in the following tabulated statement, is an illustration of the present importance of this branch of mining industry :—

PARTICULARS RESPECTING PYRITES WORKS IN VICTORIA, 1876.

No. of Works.	Number of Men and Boys Employed.		Steam Engines.		Number of—												Estimated Value of Machinery.
	Men.	Boys.	No.	Horse-power.	Machines driven by Water-Wheels.	Furnaces.	Buddles.	Arastras.	Chilian Mills.	Wheeler's Pans.	Berdan Mills.	Tyrol Mills.	Cradles.	Amalgamating Pans.	Dollies.	Toms and Sluice Boxes.	Separators.	
																	£
34	171	10	20	273½	2	42	36	68	32	18	3	6	5	16	6	10	3	39,340

NOTE.—In some cases the motive power required to work pyrites machinery is derived from engines crushing quartz.

The quantity of gold returned by the Registrars as having been derived from quartz and quartz tailings crushed, and pyrites operated on, during the past year, as shown in Tables Nos. 20, 22, and 24, amounts to 555,148 ozs. 17 dwts. 14 grs. ; but records of the whole of the gold derived from these sources have not been obtained, as will be seen by reference to Table No. 33, which shows a yield of not less than 587,291 ozs. from quartz mines. The disparity in the two returns is, however, less by one half than it was last year.

Quartz crushed.

The quantities of vein-quartz crushed, and the average yield per ton of gold obtained therefrom were, during the past five years, according to the information collected by the Mining Registrars in the several districts of the colony, as follow :—

District.	1872.			1873.			1874.			1875.			1876.		
	Quartz Crushed.		Average Yield of Gold per Ton.	Quartz Crushed.		Average Yield of Gold per Ton.	Quartz Crushed.		Average Yield of Gold per Ton.	Quartz Crushed.		Average Yield of Gold per Ton.	Quartz Crushed.		Average Yield of Gold per Ton.
	tons	cwt.	ozs. dwts. grs.	tons	cwt.	ozs. dwts. grs.	tons	cwt.	ozs. dwts. grs.	tons	cwt.	ozs. dwts. grs.	tons	cwt.	ozs. dwts. grs.
Ballarat ...	307,830	10	0 5 11·39	322,333	14	0 5 14·68	276,409	16	0 7 15·88	283,668	12	0 8 17·60	315,407	6	0 6 14·46
Beechworth	76,648	0	0 10 20·15	85,382	11	0 9 15·42	73,125	15	0 10 5·26	64,042	4	0 11 1·93	65,638	12	0 11 6·61
Sandhurst	292,630	10	0 17 2·64	317,429	0	0 15 13·86	323,493	0	0 14 6·35	331,688	0	0 13 6·09	356,927	10	0 11 22·86
Maryborough	35,158	0	0 11 14·63	40,509	5	0 10 9·20	31,903	0	0 9 10·77	33,671	0	0 10 13·48	32,605	0	0 8 18·66
Castlemaine	134,241	0	0 9 2·80	129,855	14	0 9 9·44	156,146	10	0 9 16·98	117,504	10	0 8 4·09	111,716	10	0 7 14·45
Ararat ...	70,201	14	0 17 13·00	60,733	0	0 18 20·97	63,757	0	0 18 9·80	75,467	10	0 17 23·16	88,729	0	0 16 22·47
Gippsland	37,861	8	1 5 21·88	35,430	15	1 7 16·28	42,234	8	1 3 12·79	43,426	16	1 4 7·94	40,784	6	1 3 12·58

The mining district giving the highest average return of gold per ton is Gippsland, and the next is Ararat ; but the quantity of quartz crushed in these districts, as compared with the Sandhurst and Ballarat districts, is relatively small.

Washdirt.

The quantity of washdirt puddled or sluiced during the year 1876, according to the returns made by certain companies and individual miners, was 574,164 tons 2 cwt. ; the yield of gold from which was 27,116 ozs. 13 dwts. 22 grs., or an average of 22·67 grs. per ton.

Cement.

Information has been obtained respecting the crushing of 35,938 tons 7 cwt. of cement, which yielded 8,171 ozs. 15 dwts. 4 grs. of gold, or an average of 4 dwts. 13·14 grs. per ton.

Number of miners.

The numbers of persons employed in alluvial mining and quartz mining on the 31st December in each year during the past five years were as follow:—

District.	1872.			1873.			1874.			1875.			1876.		
	Alluvial Miners.	Quartz Miners.	Total.	Alluvial Miners.	Quartz Miners.	Total.	Alluvial Miners.	Quartz Miners.	Total.	Alluvial Miners.	Quartz Miners.	Total.	Alluvial Miners.	Quartz Miners.	Total.
Ballarat ...	9,323	3,262	12,585	8,220	3,168	11,388	7,307	2,750	10,057	5,986	3,332	9,318	5,200	3,614	8,814
Beechworth	5,988	1,477	7,465	5,557	1,371	6,928	5,194	1,222	6,416	4,655	1,214	5,869	4,231	1,456	5,687
Sandhurst...	3,066	5,130	8,196	2,899	5,078	7,977	2,737	4,526	7,263	2,560	4,526	7,086	2,149	4,423	6,572
Maryborough	8,509	2,054	10,563	8,484	1,880	10,364	6,978	1,809	8,787	5,755	1,732	7,487	7,530	1,705	9,235
Castlemaine	5,247	3,098	8,345	4,665	3,141	7,806	4,571	2,219	6,790	4,456	1,962	6,418	3,880	1,566	5,446
Ararat ...	2,021	945	2,966	1,996	1,167	3,163	2,124	1,197	3,321	2,168	1,012	3,180	2,102	1,013	3,115
Gippsland...	1,987	858	2,845	2,001	968	2,969	1,767	750	2,517	1,444	915	2,359	1,466	675	2,141
Totals ...	36,141	16,824	52,965	33,822	16,773	50,595	30,678	14,473	45,151	27,024	14.693	41,717	26,558	14,452	41,010

The number of alluvial miners is still decreasing. The number now employed is about 10,000 less than in the year 1872; since the same year the number of miners employed in quartz mining has also diminished by over 2,000, but the decrease in both classes of mining in 1876, as compared with 1875, is only 707.

Chinese miners.

In 1872 there were 14,158 Chinese engaged in mining pursuits, whilst in 1876 there were but 11,167. The Chinese miners have decreased in number annually since the year 1861, when they amounted to 24,544. Although the Chinese miners do not in this colony become absorbed in other industrial pursuits like the European miners, it is a remarkable coincidence that their decrease in number is almost exactly in the same relative proportion.

Average earnings of the miners.

Dividing the value of the gold exported and received into the Mint amongst the mean number of miners employed in the year 1876, the average per man is £89 19s. 6·84d.

The averages for the past five years are shown in the tabulated statement below:—

Year.	Alluvial Miners. Earnings per man per annum.			Quartz Miners. Earnings per man per annum.			Average Earnings per man per annum.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1872	65	0	6¾	159	0	6¼	93	17	1·47
1873	59	15	9½	164	15	9¾	93	16	2·62
1874	58	9	2¼	183	0	9	99	8	3·07
1875	63	5	5	182	17	8	104	4	4·02
1876	51	10	7	160	17	9¾	89	19	6·84

The fluctuations shown in the above returns are, I believe, in a great measure due to the more or less partial occupation of very many of the miners in agricultural pursuits in each year; and the falling off in the average earnings per man for 1876, as compared with the preceding year, has in respect to alluvial mining been greatly affected by the dryness of the past season, and the consequent want of water for sluicing operations.

The following tables show the extent to which steam machinery has been employed in the gold mines of the colony during the past five years :— Machinery employed.

		Alluvial Mining. Steam Engines employed in Winding, Pumping, &c.		Quartz Mining. Steam Engines employed in Winding, Pumping, &c.		Stamp-heads (crushing Quartz or other Vein-stuff).
		Number.	Aggregate Horse-power.	Number.	Aggregate Horse-power.	
1872	Ballarat ...	210	6,262	136	3,317	1,235
	Beechworth ...	43	702	73	847	1,069
	Sandhurst ...	20	298	224	4,014	1,412
	Maryborough ...	74	2,144	105	2,040	748
	Castlemaine ...	18	309	160	3,087	1,186
	Ararat ...	13	175	42	1,027	410
	Gippsland ...	1	6	42	786	500
		379	9,896	782	15,118	6,560
1873	Ballarat ...	197	5,929	131	3,385	1,194
	Beechworth ...	44	711	65	859	1,024
	Sandhurst ...	19	290	235	4,133	1,423
	Maryborough ...	71	2,087	109	2,017	830
	Castlemaine ...	14	301	165	3,296	1,141
	Ararat ...	15	241	38	1,032	397
	Gippsland ...	2	20	46	799	492
		362	9,579	789	15,521	6,501
1874	Ballarat ...	185	5,705	135	3,348	1,121
	Beechworth ...	45	730	69	896	1,014
	Sandhurst ...	19	300	232	4,216	1,428
	Maryborough ...	67	1,938	110	2,070	872
	Castlemaine ...	13	291	160	3,044	1,151
	Ararat ...	22	328	41	1,411	344
	Gippsland ...	2	25	41	564	501
		353	9,317	788	15,549	6,431
1875	Ballarat ...	169	5,259	138	3,330	1,172
	Beechworth ...	46	742	68	879	1,036
	Sandhurst ...	15	250	239	4,260	1,412
	Maryborough ...	65	1,960	100	1,901	826
	Castlemaine ...	11	257	144	2,978	1,059
	Ararat ...	23	336	43	1,477	344
	Gippsland ...	3	30	37	564	502
		332	8,834	769	15,389	6,351
1876	Ballarat ...	142	4,662	159	3,866	1,248
	Beechworth ...	44	702	75	1,008	1,049
	Sandhurst ...	10	190	245	4,453	1,430
	Maryborough ...	55	1,667	94	1,830	712
	Castlemaine ...	13	279	140	2,789	1,025
	Ararat ...	22	328	44	1,577	384
	Gippsland ...	3	30	35	566	508
		289	7,858	792	16,089	6,356

During the past five years the number of steam engines employed in alluvial mining has decreased by 90, and the number employed in quartz mining has increased by 10. A greater number of steam engines was employed in quartz mining during the last year than in any preceding year.

Value of machinery.

The estimates of the value of the machinery and appliances in use on the several goldfields of the colony for the past five years, as made by the Mining Registrars, are as follow :—

District.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
	£	£	£	£	£
Ballarat ...	493,325	494,668	422,448	399,653	398,405
Beechworth ...	269,591	256,295	249,856	247,979	209,198
Sandhurst ...	488,190	503,398	505,580	509,808	519,140
Maryborough ...	311,891	310,895	297,939	290,542	282,167
Castlemaine ...	267,040	292,418	292,465	280,179	268,157
Ararat ...	120,425	122,611	170,724	173,434	183,009
Gippsland ...	148,112	150,903	139,924	132,034	129,424
Totals ...	2,098,574	2,131,188	2,078,936	2,033,629	1,989,500

Area of auriferous ground, &c.

The approximate area of auriferous ground over which mining operations extended up to the end of 1876 is 1,134 square miles, and the number of distinct quartz reefs proved to be auriferous is 3,307. See Tables Nos. 18 and 19.

Areas held as claims and under lease.

The total area occupied as "mining claims" under the provisions of the bye-laws of the several Mining Boards, and the area held under leases from the Crown, were, on the 31st December in each year, for the past five years, as follow :—

——	1872.			1873.			1874.			1875.			1876.		
	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.
Total area held as "claims" ...	77,495	0	20	69,316	1	14	53,529	3	37	52,313	1	12	52,388	0	26
Total area held under leases	33,646	1	$8\frac{1}{10}$	31,569	2	34	26,601	1	$33\frac{3}{4}$	20,686	1	$6\frac{7}{10}$	19,249	0	$7\frac{6}{10}$

Deep quartz mining.

Quartz mining continues to be followed as a remunerative industry year by year at increasingly greater depths, notwithstanding the greater cost of the appliances necessary for working the lodes.

One of the shafts at Stawell is 1,920 feet in depth, and others 1,706 feet, 1,500 feet, 1,262 feet, 1,141 feet, 1,050 feet, and 1,045 feet. At Sandhurst, Clunes, and Ballarat there are also shafts ranging in depth from 800 feet to 1,158 feet.

The quarterly published reports of the mining surveyors show that about 11,500 tons of quartz obtained at Stawell, at depths varying from 430 to 1,060 feet from the surface, yielded 1 oz. 3 dwts. to 5 ozs. 14 dwts. per ton ; that 5,890 tons of quartz obtained at Sandhurst, at depths varying from 500 feet to 1,000 feet, yielded from 1 oz. 14 dwts. to very nearly 2 ozs. per ton ; and that quartz obtained from the deep mines at Blackwood, St. Arnaud, Tarrangower, and Stringer's Creek has given from 13 dwts. to 3 ozs. 15 dwts. of gold to the ton.

Labor employed on leased lands.

On the 31st December 1876 there were 1,400 gold-mining leases in force, and the following statement shows the number of men employed upon 1,359 of these leases according to the returns for each district furnished to the Mining Department :—

District.	Number of Leases.	Area.			Number of Men, as per covenants.	Number of Men actually employed, as per returns.
		A.	R.	P.		
Ballarat	83	3,486	1	16	1,449	1,699
Beechworth	171	2,702	1	22	1,382	664
Sandhurst	601	4,193	1	13	2,758	3,756
Maryborough	162	3,014	1	25	1,521	981
Castlemaine	190	2,333	2	38	1,091	1,148
Ararat	72	1,358	0	21	579	1,134
Gippsland	80	1,446	3	8	663	490
Totals	1,359	18,535	0	23	9,443	9,872

The following estimates show the value of the lands held under the bye-laws and under leases from the Crown in the mining districts of the colony for the past five years :— Value of claims and leased lands.

—	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
	£	£	£	£	£
Estimated value of claims and leased blocks	11,820,139	12,431,241	7,424,024	7,078,261	5,745,590

The revenue derived directly from the goldfields and mineral districts, according to the actual receipts at the Treasury, exclusive of fees, fines, and forfeitures, was, during the last five years, as follows :— Revenue derived from the goldfields.

—	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Miners' rights ...	8,645 0 0	8,199 10 0	6,707 15 0	5,672 5 0	5,718 6 11
Business licenses ...	1,666 15 10	1,702 0 0	1,433 12 6	1,145 0 0	940 10 0
Rents for leases of auriferous mineral lands	30,363 3 10	15,910 16 0	13,805 0 1	10,972 6 4	9,722 0 2
Water-right and searching licenses	1,026 5 9	1,013 5 0	1,142 15 0	896 5 0	835 5 0
Totals ...	41,701 5 5	26,825 11 0	23,089 2 7	18,685 16 4	17,216 2 1

On the 17th December 1872 the rent of lands held under gold-mining leases was reduced from One pound sterling per acre per annum to Ten shillings per acre per annum.

Information relating to the number of water-right licenses in force and issued is contained in Tables Nos. 43 and 44. Water rights.

Tables Nos. 41, 42, 43, and 44 give full information respecting water-races.

The values of the timber used during the past five years are given below from information supplied by the several Mining Registrars :— Cost of timber.

—	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Value of timber used for mining purposes	467,320 12 0	480,691 10 0	441,731 7 0	365,176 16 0	328,401 3 0

The prices paid for crushing quartz and cement are given in Table No. 30. Cost of crushing.

The wages paid for labor in the mines, the prices of mining materials, and information relating to quartz-crushing machinery will be found in Tables Nos. 52, 53, and 55. Wages, &c.

Tables Nos. 47, 46, and 45 relate to the quantities of gunpowder stored in the magazines on the goldfields, and the moneys received and disbursed in the Warden's offices. Gunpowder used, &c.

The number of mining companies registered during the year 1876 was 94 ; the number of shares was 1,548,833 ; and the nominal capital, £7,349,696. Companies registered.

The number of companies registered in each year during the past five years, with the number of shares and the nominal capital, was as follows :—

Year.	Number of Companies.	Number of Shares.	Nominal Capital.
			£ s. d.
1872 ...	522	11,160,843	6,813,071 0 0
1873 ...	385	6,911,424	5,059,857 15 0
1874 ...	143	1,968,802	1,592,213 0 0
1875 ...	107	1,474,811	1,234,680 10 0
1876 ...	94	1,548,833	1,349,696 0 0

Ten applications were lodged during the year for rewards for the discovery of new goldfields, but no awards were made. New goldfields.

Business of the department.

The amount of business transacted in the Department during the years 1875 and 1876 is shown approximately by the following figures :—

	1875.	1876.
Number of letters received	23,668	20,562
Correspondence referred from other departments, inwards ...	9,612	8,049
References outwards	10,229	8,620
Number of accounts received	4,029	3,707
Number of accounts passed	3,915	3,812
Number of schedules passed (in triplicate)	317	319
Number of returns received	6,654	6,349
Number of letters outwards	28,793	23,670

Number of applications for leases and licenses.

The number of applications for leases and licenses dealt with during the year 1876 was as follows :—

Applications lodged for gold-mining leases	330
Applications lodged for mineral leases	16
Applications lodged for water-right licenses	5
Applications lodged for gold-mining leases on reserved lands	9
Total number of applications for leases and licenses dealt with (granted, refused, or abandoned), as notified in the *Government Gazette*	365
New leases issued in lieu of surrendered leases (gold and mineral) ...	36

METALS AND MINERALS OTHER THAN GOLD.

Silver.—3,388 tons 10 cwt. of argentiferous ore were raised during the year, and 26,356 ozs. 7 dwts. 19 grs. of silver were obtained, of which 25,839 ozs. 16 dwts. 7 grs. were parted from gold smelted at the Mint.

Tin.—The exports of tin during the year were 34 tons 9 cwt.

Copper.—37 tons of copper ore were raised during the year.

Antimony.—There were raised during the year 2,529 tons 5 cwt. 2 qrs. of antimony ores; and 606 tons 19 cwt. of antimony ore, 474 tons 2 cwt. of antimony regulus, and 254 tons 4 cwt. of crude antimony were exported.

Lead.—The quantity of lead ore raised during the year was 17 tons. 6 cwt.

Iron.—Of iron ore 5 tons were raised.

Coal.—1,095 tons of coal were raised during the year.

Lignite.—The quantity of lignite raised was 315 tons 6 cwt.

Flags.—1,735 tons 1 cwt. 3 qrs. of flagging were quarried.

Full information relative to the exploration of mines where metals and minerals other than gold were raised is given in the tables and in the remarks under metalliferous minerals.

The numbers of miners employed during the quarter ended 31st December 1876 in mining for metals and minerals other than gold were as follow :—

District.	Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	Silver Miners.	Argentiferous Galena Miners.	Tin Miners.	Copper Miners.	Antimony Miners.	Ironstone Miners.	Limestone Miners.	Coal Miners.	Slate and Flag Miners.	Totals.
Ballarat ...	Gordon	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4
	Blackwood	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Sandhurst	Kilmore	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	4
	Heathcote and Waranga South	...	...	...	...	140	...	...	...	...	140
	Waranga North	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	4
Maryborough ...	St. Arnaud North	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Castlemaine	Castlemaine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	26
	St. Andrews	...	...	27	...	51	...	...	30	...	108
Ararat	Pleasant Creek	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Gippsland	Mitchell River	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
	Stringer's Creek	...	...	...	43	...	...	...	...	...	43
	Russell's Creek	...	...	34	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
	Tarwin	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	2	...	14
	Traralgon	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	6	...	8
		10	10	61	43	201	6	12	38	28	409

The following statement contains some interesting information respecting the smelting works which have been in operation during the past year :—

SMELTING WORKS IN VICTORIA.

Number of Smelting Works in 1876.	Number of Men employed.	Number of Boys employed.	Steam-Engines.		Number of Furnaces.	Value of Works.
			Number.	Horse-power.		
9	86	19	2	37	26	£13,820

The following table gives the quantity of ore smelted during the year 1876, and the result obtained :—

Name of Mineral.	Quantity of Ore smelted.		Gross Produce of Metal.		Actual Value.
	tons	cwt.	tons	cwt.	£
Antimony	1,923	0	875	0	40,810
Tin	7	10	5	5	341
Lead	47	0	17	10	263 at the mine

The following is an estimate of the metals and minerals raised in the colony from the first discovery of the goldfields to 31st December 1876 :—

Gold.—Quantity exported and minted in the colony from the date of the first discovery to the 31st December 1876, 46,444,188 ozs. 7 dwts.,* at £4 per oz. £185,776,753

Silver.—Ore raised, 16,168 tons.
Produce of silver from ore treated, 84,825 ozs. 11 dwts. 23 grs., at 5s. per oz. 21,206
Silver parted from gold, 58,691 ozs. 12 dwts. 17 grs. (value already included).

Tin.—Ore exported,	2,601 tons 2 cwt.	£192,936	
„	92 tons 9 cwt., at £70 per ton	6,471	
„	177 tons 10 cwt., at £52 10s. per ton	9,318	
„	269 tons 1 cwt.	17,551	
„	146 tons 15 cwt.	9,524	
„	250 tons	17,500	
„	294 tons 19 cwt	20,775	
„	174 tons 16 cwt.	11,301	
„	112 tons 14 cwt.	6,720	
„	15 tons	714	
Tin exported,	3 tons 12 cwt. 3 qrs. 12 lbs., at £140 per ton ...	510	
„	7 tons 16 cwt.	729	
„	14 cwt., at £140 per ton	98	
„	15 cwt.	157	
„	7 tons 19 cwt.	1,097	
„	41 tons 10 cwt.	5,439	
„	48 tons 16 cwt.	5,760	
„	38 tons 8 cwt.	3,628	
„	52 tons 5 cwt.	4,084	
„	34 tons 9 cwt.	2,521	
Tin consumed in Victoria, 206 tons...	... ...	19,558	
			336,391

Copper.—Ores raised, about 1,604 tons.

Smelted, 31 tons 7 cwt., at £112 per ton	3,511	
Regulus, 70 tons 16 cwt.	1,969	
Rough copper, 10½ tons	320	
Ore exported, 5 cwt.	10	
Copper exported, 39 tons 13 cwt.	2,521	
		8,331

* From returns furnished by the Honorable the Commissioner of Trade and Customs and the Deputy Master of the Mint, and inclusive of 1,267,241 ozs., which, according to the Registrar-General's tables, were produced in Victoria in 1852-5, but passed through the Customs of New South Wales, Tasmania, and South Australia, and not recorded in Victorian tables. The quantities used and manufactured in the colony cannot be estimated.

Antimony.—Ore raised, 2,955 tons 15 cwt. 26 lbs.	£32,102		
„ 435 tons, at £6 per ton	2,610		
„ 272 tons, at £9 per ton	2,448		
„ 510 tons, at £7 per ton	3,570		
„ 199 tons, at £4 per ton	796		
„ 1,661 tons 3 cwt.	13,669		
„ 1,575 tons 1 cwt.	12,600		
„ 1,573 tons 15 cwt., at £6 per ton	9,442		
„ 1,428 tons 3 cwt., at £6 5s. per ton	8,926		
„ 588 tons 8 cwt., at £8 per ton	4,707		
„ 1,749 tons 8 cwt., at £8 per ton	13,995		
„ 2,529 tons 5 cwt., at £6 per ton	15,175		
			£120,040
Lead.—Ore raised, 100 tons, at £6 per ton...	600		
„ 45 tons	270		
„ 100 tons	600		
„ 162 tons, at £10 per ton	1,620		
„ 111 tons, at £10 per ton	1,110		
„ 50 tons, at £10 per ton	500		
„ 17 tons, at £6 per ton...	102		
			4,802
Iron.—Ore raised, 419 tons			2,111
Coal.—2,043 tons, at £1 10s. per ton	3,064		
504 tons, at £1 12s. per ton	806		
2,909 tons, at £1 10s. per ton	4,363		
1,095 tons, at £1 10s. per ton	1,642		
			9,875
Lignite.—1,992 tons, at 17s. 6d.	1,742		
763 tons, at 5s.	191		
750 tons, at 5s.	187		
208 tons, at 5s.	52		
315 tons at 5s.	79		
			2,251
Kaolin.—1,757 tons, at £4 per ton	7,028		
50 tons 2 cwt., at £5 10s. per ton	275		
25 tons 12 cwt., at £5 10s. per ton	141		
			7,444
Flagging.—78,660 square yards	22,370		
1,500 square yards	525		
3,918 tons	6,206		
1,738 tons	2,607		
1,960 tons	980		
1,961 tons	2,941		
1,555 tons	2,332		
1,735 tons	2,602		
			40,563
Slates.—11,000, at £8 per 1,000...	88		
160 tons, at £4 per ton	640		
85 tons, at £2 10s. per ton	212		
			940
Magnesite.—6¼ tons, at £2 per ton			12
Ores, Mineral Earthy Clays, &c., unenumerated.—77 tons 10 cwt.			2,608
Diamonds.—About 107 carats, at an average of say £1 per carat			107
Sapphires, &c.—Numbers cannot be estimated, say			625
Total			£186,334,059

The prices of the several ores, &c., have been obtained from persons best acquainted with the market value of them.

THOS. COUCHMAN,
Secretary for Mines.

Office of Mines,
Melbourne, 28th February 1877.

TABLES.

No. 1.

SUMMARY.

NUMBER of MINERS employed in the several MINING DISTRICTS for each Quarter during the Year 1876.

Quarter.	BALLARAT.			BEECHWORTH.			SANDHURST.			MARYBOROUGH.		
	Alluvial.	Quartz.	Totals.	Alluvial.	Quartz.	Totals.	Alluvial.	Quartz.	Totals.	Alluvial.	Quartz.	Totals.
First Quarter, ending March 31st	5,705	3,272	8,977	4,553	1,220	5,773	2,413	4,567	6,980	5,847	1,705	7,552
Second Quarter, ending June 30th	5,397	3,403	8,800	4,616	1,524	6,140	2,272	4,567	6,839	7,697	1,727	9,424
Third Quarter, ending Sept. 30th	5,183	3,599	8,782	4,535	1,506	6,041	2,212	4,591	6,803	7,643	1,741	9,384
Fourth Quarter, ending Dec. 31st	5,200	3,614	8,814	4,231	1,456	5,687	2,149	4,423	6,572	7,530	1,705	9,235

Quarter.	CASTLEMAINE.			ARARAT.			GIPPSLAND.			GRAND TOTALS.		
	Alluvial.	Quartz.	Totals.	Alluvial.	Quartz.	Totals.	Alluvial.	Quartz.	Totals.	Alluvial.	Quartz.	Totals.
First Quarter, ending March 31st	4,171	1,753	5,924	2,145	1,016	3,161	1,491	815	2,306	26,325	14,348	40,673
Second Quarter, ending June 30th	4,069	1,735	5,804	2,119	1,027	3,146	1,513	787	2,300	27,683	14,770	42,453
Third Quarter, ending Sept. 30th	3,973	1,652	5,625	2,118	1,024	3,142	1,493	720	2,213	27,157	14,833	41,990
Fourth Quarter, ending Dec. 31st	3,880	1,566	5,446	2,102	1,013	3,115	1,466	675	2,141	26,558	14,452	41,010

NOTE.—The mean number of miners employed during the year was 41,531; and the total quantity of gold exported and received at the Mint was 934,224 ozs. 2 dwts., which, at £4 per oz., gives £89 19s. 6·84d. per man per annum. The rate per man per annnm for 1875 was £104 4s. 4·02d.; for 1874, £99 8s. 3·07d.; for 1873, £93 16s. 2·62d.; for 1872, £93 17s. 1·47d.; for 1871, £93 6s. 0·62d.; for 1870, £81 0s. 6·46d.; for 1869, £79 7s. 0·87d.; for 1868, £104 18s. 8·75d.; for 1867, £87 1s. 6·91d.; for 1866, £80 8s. 3·87d.; for 1865, £74 4s. 2·09d.; for 1864, £74 1s. 9·29d.; for 1863, £70 9s. 0·42d.; for 1862, £67 14s. 5·11d.; for 1861, £74 15s. 11d.; and for 1860, £79 9s. 3·07d.

No. 2.

SUMMARY.

NUMBER of MINERS employed in the several MINING DISTRICTS during the Quarter ended 31st December 1876.

Mining Districts.	ALLUVIAL MINERS.		QUARTZ MINERS.		TOTALS.		Grand Totals.
	European.	Chinese.	European.	Chinese.	European.	Chinese.	
Ballarat District	3,053	2,147	3,569	45	6,622	2,192	8,814
Beechworth District	1,778	2,453	1,454	2	3,232	2,455	5,687
Sandhurst District	1,137	1,012	4,373	50	5,510	1,062	6,572
Maryborough District	5,499	2,031	1,705	...	7,204	2,031	9,235
Castlemaine District	2,008	1,872	1,566	...	3,574	1,872	5,446
Ararat District	1,115	987	1,004	9	2,119	996	3,115
Gippsland District	907	559	675	...	1,582	559	2,141
Totals	15,497	11,061	14,346	106	29,843	11,167	41,010

No. 3.

NUMBER of MINERS employed in the Mining District of BALLARAT during the Quarter ended 31st December 1876.

Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	ALLUVIAL MINERS.		QUARTZ MINERS.		TOTALS.		Grand Totals.
	European.	Chinese.	European.	Chinese.	European.	Chinese.	
Central Division	524	160	1,472	10	1,996	170	2,166
Southern Division	547	330	100	...	647	330	977
Buninyong Division	260	100	250	30	510	130	640
Smythesdale Division	760	840	80	...	840	840	1,680
Creswick Division	760	350	750	...	1,510	350	1,860
Gordon Subdivision	2	27	240	...	242	27	269
Steiglitz Subdivision	50	75	143	...	193	75	268
Blackwood Division and Blue Mountain South Subdivision	150	265	530	5	680	270	950
Ballan Subdivision	...	...	4	...	4	...	4
Totals	3,053	2,147	3,569	45	6,622	2,192	8,814

No. 4.

NUMBER of MINERS employed in the Mining District of BEECHWORTH during the Quarter ended 31st December 1876.

Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	ALLUVIAL MINERS.		QUARTZ MINERS.		TOTALS.		Grand Totals.
	European.	Chinese.	European.	Chinese.	European.	Chinese.	
Beechworth Division	867	775	134	...	1,001	775	1,776
Yackandandah Division	250	290	80	...	330	290	620
Indigo Division	93	272	48	...	141	272	413
Buckland Division	76	909	397	...	473	909	1,382
Alexandra Subdivision	80	15	135	...	215	15	230
Dry Creek Subdivision	29	100	2	...	31	100	131
Benalla Subdivision	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gaffney's Creek Subdivision	55	4	85	...	140	4	144
Wood's Point Subdivision	112	2	64	2	176	4	180
Big River Subdivision	66	2	19	...	85	2	87
Mitta-mitta Division	50	74	270	...	320	74	394
Jamieson Subdivision	100	10	220	...	320	10	330
Totals	1,778	2,453	1,454	2	3,232	2,455	5,687

No. 5.

NUMBER of MINERS employed in the Mining District of SANDHURST during the Quarter ended 31st December 1876.

Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	ALLUVIAL MINERS.		QUARTZ MINERS.		TOTALS.		Grand Totals.
	European.	Chinese.	European.	Chinese.	European.	Chinese.	
Sandhurst Division	900	920	3,850	50	4,750	970	5,720
Kilmore Division	10	...	6	...	16	...	16
Heathcote Division and Waranga South Subdivision	134	40	421	...	555	40	595
Waranga North Subdivision	93	52	96	...	189	52	241
Totals	1,137	1,012	4,373	50	5,510	1,062	6,572

No. 6.

NUMBER of MINERS employed in the Mining District of MARYBOROUGH during the Quarter ended 31st December 1876.

Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	ALLUVIAL MINERS.		QUARTZ MINERS.		TOTALS.		Grand Totals.
	European.	Chinese.	European.	Chinese.	European.	Chinese.	
Maryborough Division	1,825	400	875	...	2,700	400	3,100
Majorca Subdivision	123	12	9	...	132	12	144
Amherst Division	324	220	120	...	444	220	664
Avoca Subdivision	352	592	28	...	380	592	972
Dunolly and Tarnagulla Divisions	310	210	290	...	600	210	810
Inglewood and Wedderburn Divisions	2,245	437	57	...	2,302	437	2,739
Redbank and St. Arnaud South Subdivisions ...	205	120	56	...	261	120	381
St. Arnaud North Subdivision...	115	40	270	...	385	40	425
Totals	5,499	2,031	1,705	...	7,204	2,031	9,235

No. 7.

NUMBER of MINERS employed in the Mining District of CASTLEMAINE during the Quarter ended 31st December 1876.

Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	ALLUVIAL MINERS.		QUARTZ MINERS.		TOTALS.		Grand Totals.
	European.	Chinese.	European.	Chinese.	European.	Chinese.	
Castlemaine Division	316	310	370	...	686	310	996
Fryer's Creek Division	815	735	160	...	975	735	1,710
Hepburn Division	465	340	447	...	912	340	1,252
Taradale and Kyneton Subdivision	116	191	106	...	222	191	413
Tarrangower Division	62	240	308	...	370	240	610
St. Andrew's Division	189	54	169	...	358	54	412
Blue Mountain North Subdivision	45	2	6	...	51	2	53
Totals	2,008	1,872	1,566	...	3,574	18,72	5,446

No. 8.

NUMBER of MINERS employed in the Mining District of ARARAT during the Quarter ended 31st December 1876.

Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	ALLUVIAL MINERS.		QUARTZ MINERS.		TOTALS.		Grand Totals.
	European.	Chinese.	European.	Chinese.	European.	Chinese.	
Ararat Division	105	370	35	...	140	370	510
Pleasant Creek Division	554	255	947	9	1,501	264	1,765
Barkly Division	225	253	7	...	232	253	485
Raglan Division	231	109	15	...	246	109	355
Totals	1,115	987	1,004	9	2,119	996	3,115

No. 9.

NUMBER of MINERS employed in the Mining District of GIPPSLAND during the Quarter ended 31st December 1876.

Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	ALLUVIAL MINERS.		QUARTZ MINERS.		TOTALS.		Grand Totals.
	European.	Chinese.	European.	Chinese.	European.	Chinese.	
Omeo Subdivision	68	277	15	...	83	277	360
Mitchell River and Boggy Creek Subdivisions ...	163	130	2	...	165	130	295
Crooked River Division	141	54	29	...	170	54	224
Jericho Division	60	58	25	...	85	58	143
Donnelly's Creek Division	45	3	36	...	81	3	84
Stringer's Creek Division	120	...	502	...	622	...	622
Aberfeldy Subdivision	96	2	20	...	116	2	118
Russell's Creek Subdivision	62	...	...	...	62	...	62
Bendoc Subdivision	38	35	10	...	48	35	83
Tarwin Subdivision	67	...	36	...	103	...	103
Traralgon Subdivision	47	...	...	...	47	...	47
Totals	907	559	675	...	1,582	559	2,141

No. 10.

SUMMARY.

NUMBER of MACHINES employed in ALLUVIAL and QUARTZ MINING in the several MINING DISTRICTS during the Quarter ended 31st December 1876.

Mining Districts.	ALLUVIAL MINING.													
	Steam-engines employed in Winding, Pumping, &c.		Steam Puddling Machines.	Buddles.	Horse Puddling Machines.	Whims.	Whips or Pulleys.	Sluices, Toms, and Sluice-boxes.	Hydraulic Hoses.	Pumps.	Water-wheels.	Quicksilver and Compound Cradles.	Stamp-heads (crushing Cement).	Boring Machines.
	Total Number.	Aggregate Horse-power.												
Ballarat District	142	4,662	146	5	143	56	16	1,365	1	60	10	3	16	3
Beechworth District ...	44	702	13	...	24	23	41	11,730	12	176	130	...	...	4
Sandhurst District ...	10	190	...	...	130	10	18	30	...	60	...	3	124	1
Maryborough District ...	55	1,667	54	...	407	69	41	100	...	72	4	103	167	4
Castlemaine District ...	13	279	3	...	180	27	71	565	20	134	8	29	42	1
Ararat District	22	328	3	2	33	18	6	70	...	13	...	28	99	1
Gippsland District ...	3	30	1	...	6	7	52	1,461	3	76	64	...	...	2
Totals	289	7,858	220	7	923	210	245	15,321	36	591	216	166	448	16

Mining Districts.	QUARTZ MINING.									Approximate Value of all Mining Plant in the Districts.
	Steam-engines employed in Winding, Pumping, Crushing, &c.		Crushing Machines driven by other power than Steam.	Stamp-heads (crushing Quartz or other vein-stuff).	Buddles.	Winding, Washing, Pumping, or other Machines moved by Water-power.	Whims.	Whips or Pulleys.	Boring Machines used in Blasting.	
	Total Number.	Aggregate Horse-power.								
										£
Ballarat District	159	3,866	10	1,248	29	...	80	25	1	398,405
Beechworth District ...	75	1,008	42	1,049	6	4	15	16	1	209,198
Sandhurst District ...	245	4,453	...	1,430	3	...	200	231	1	519,140
Maryborough District ...	94	1,830	...	712	4	...	94	95	...	282,167
Castlemaine District ...	140	2,789	2	1,025	9	4	120	108	1	268,157
Ararat District	44	1,577	...	384	...	...	50	13	...	183,009
Gippsland District ...	35	566	12	508	3	...	1	1	1	129,424
Totals	792	16,089	66	6,356	54	8	560	489	5	1,989,500

NOTE.

In the Ballarat District the machinery used in alluvial mining shows a decrease, as compared with the returns for 1875, of 27 steam-engines, 597 horse-power, 22 steam puddling machines, 17 horse puddling machines, 4 whims, 2 whips or pulleys, 131 sluices. toms, and sluice-boxes, 1 hydraulic hose, 1 pump, 2 quicksilver and compound cradles, and 20 stamp-heads (crushing cement). In quartz mining there is an increase of 21 steam-engines, 536 horse-power, 76 stamp-heads, 1 buddle, 16 whims, and 11 whips or pulleys. The value of all mining plant in the district shows a decrease of £1,248.

In the Beechworth District the machinery used in alluvial mining shows a decrease of 2 steam-engines, 40 horse-power, 21 horse puddling machines, 1 whip or pulley, 125 sluices, toms, and sluice-boxes, 6 pumps, and 1 boring machine; and an increase of 6 hydraulic hoses. In quartz mining there is an increase of 7 steam-engines, 129 horse-power, 13 stamp heads (crushing quartz or other vein stuff), 1 winding, washing, pumping, or other machine moved by water-power, 1 whim, and 1 boring machine; and a decrease of 4 crushing machines driven by other power than steam. The value of all mining plant in the district shows a decrease of £38,781.

In the Sandhurst District the machinery used in alluvial mining shows a decrease of 5 steam-engines, 60 horse-power, 19 horse puddling machines, 4 whips or pulleys, 4 pumps, 2 quicksilver and compound cradles, and 37 stamp-heads (crushing cement); and an increase of 1 boring machine. In quartz mining there is an increase of 6 steam-engines, 193 horse-power, and 18 stamp-heads (crushing quartz or other vein stuff); and a decrease of 10 whims, and 8 whips or pulleys. The value of all mining plant in the district has increased £9,332.

In the Maryborough District the machinery used in alluvial mining shows a decrease of 10 steam-engines, 293 horse-power, 5 steam puddling machines, 27 horse puddling machines, 12 whips or pulleys, 11 sluices, toms, and sluice-boxes, 23 stamp-heads (crushing cement), and 1 boring machine; and an increase of 2 pumps, 1 water-wheel, and 20 quicksilver and compound cradles. In quartz mining there is a decrease of 6 steam-engines, 71 horse-power, 114 stamp-heads, 35 whims, and 19 whips or pulleys. The value of all mining plant in the district shows a decrease of £8,375.

In the Castlemaine District the machinery used in alluvial mining shows an increase of 2 steam-engines, 22 horse-power, 3 whims, 6 pumps, and 2 quicksilver and compound cradles; and a decrease of 41 horse puddling machines, 49 sluices, toms, or sluice-boxes, and 18 stamp-heads (crushing cement). In quartz mining there is a decrease of 4 steam-engines, 189 horse-power, 34 stamp-heads, 14 whims, and 12 whips or pulleys; and an increase of 1 buddle. The value of all mining plant in the district shows a decrease of £12,022.

In the Ararat District the machinery used in alluvial mining shows a decrease of 1 steam-engine, 8 horse-power, 5 steam puddling machines, 1 horse puddling machine, and 10 stamp-heads; and an increase of 1 buddle. In quartz mining there is an increase of 1 steam-engine, 100 horse-power, and 40 stamp-heads; and a decrease of 2 whips or pulleys. The value of all mining plant in the district shows an increase of £9,575.

In the Gippsland District the machinery used in alluvial mining shows an increase of 2 whims, 40 whips or pulleys, 257 sluices, toms, and sluice-boxes, 4 pumps, and 1 boring machine; and a decrease of 11 stamp-heads (crushing cement). In quartz mining there is a decrease of 2 steam-engines, and 3 crushing machines driven by other power than steam; and an increase of 2 horse-power, and 6 stamp-heads. The value of all mining plant in the district shows a decrease of £2,610.

Comparing the totals of machinery employed on the goldfields in 1876 with the totals for 1875, the machinery used in alluvial mining shows a decrease of 43 steam-engines, 976 horse-power, 32 steam puddling machines, 126 horse puddling machines, 59 sluices, toms, and sluice-boxes, 119 stamp-heads (crushing cement); and an increase of 1 buddle, 1 whim, 21 whips or pulleys, 5 hydraulic hoses, 1 pump, 1 water-wheel, and 18 quicksilver and compound cradles. In quartz mining there is an increase of 23 steam-engines, 700 horse-power, 5 stamp-heads, 2 buddles, 1 winding, washing, pumping, or other machine moved by water-power, and 1 boring machine used in blasting; and a decrease of 7 crushing machines driven by other power than steam, 42 whims, and 30 whips or pulleys. There is a decrease in the total value of all mining plant on the goldfields as compared with 1875, of £44,129.

No. 11.

NUMBER of MACHINES employed in ALLUVIAL and QUARTZ MINING in the Mining District of BALLARAT during the Quarter ended 31st December 1876.

Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	ALLUVIAL MINING.														QUARTZ MINING.								Approximate Value of all Mining Plant in the Divisions or Subdivisions.
	Steam-engines employed in Winding, Pumping, &c.		Steam Puddling Machines.	Buddles.	Horse Puddling Machines.	Whims.	Whips or Pulleys.	Sluices, Toms, and Sluice-boxes.	Hydraulic Hoses.	Pumps.	Water-wheels.	Quicksilver and Compound Cradles.	Stamp-heads (crushing Cement).	Boring Machines.	Steam-engines employed in Winding, Pumping, Crushing, &c.		Crushing Machines driven by other power than Steam.	Stamp-heads (crushing Quartz or other vein-stuff).	Buddles.	Whims.	Whips or Pulleys.	Boring Machines used in Blasting.	
	Total Number.	Aggregate Horse-power.													Total Number.	Aggregate Horse-power.							
																							£
Central Division	49	2,695	52	2	26	21	...	...	...	24	...	...	...	1	52	1,189	...	429	4	18	...	...	119,900
Southern Division	2	35	1	...	18	3	11	40	1	6	...	1	6	1	8	144	...	46	...	4	3	...	20,000
Buninyong Division	16	320	9	1	19	7	...	14	...	11	...	...	...	...	10	210	...	68	2	6	...	...	32,000
Smythesdale Division	50	1,125	60	2	15	9	...	36	...	...	...	2	10	1	4	58	...	32	1	1	...	...	26,000
Creswick Division	25	487	24	...	65	16	5	800	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	1,116	1	259	22	4	15	1	106,000
Gordon Subdivision	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	369	...	101	...	3	...	...	16,487
Steiglitz Subdivision	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	223	...	30	...	14	7	...	14,618
Blackwood Division and Blue Mountain South Subdivision	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	450	...	19	10	...	...	...	25	547	9	275	...	20	...	...	63,000
Ballan Subdivision	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	10	...	8	...	...	...	...	400
Totals	142	4,662	146	5	143	56	16	1,365	1	60	10	3	16	3	159	3,866	10	1,248	29	70	25	1	398,405

No. 12.

NUMBER of MACHINES employed in ALLUVIAL and QUARTZ MINING in the Mining District of BEECHWORTH during the Quarter ended 31st December 1876.

Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	ALLUVIAL MINING.											QUARTZ MINING.								Approximate Value of all Mining Plant in the Divisions or Subdivisions.
	Steam-engines employed in Winding, Pumping, &c.		Steam Puddling Machines.	Horse Puddling Machines.	Whims.	Whips or Pulleys.	Sluices, Toms, and Sluice-boxes.	Hydraulic Hoses.	Pumps.	Water-wheels.	Boring Machines.	Steam-engines employed in Winding, Pumping, Crushing, &c.		Crushing Machines driven by other power than Steam.	Stamp-heads (crushing Quartz or other vein-stuff).	Buddles.	Winding, Washing, Pumping, or other Machines moved by Water-power.	Whims.	Whips or Pulleys.	Boring Machines used in Blasting.	
	Total Number.	Aggregate Horse-power.										Total Number.	Aggregate Horse-power.								
																					£
Beechworth Division	25	270	...	4	8	3	5,200	3	52	20	2	7	115	5	75	...	1	5	...	1	53,260
Yackandandah Division	2	10	...	...	...	...	3,000	3	24	21	...	5	81	...	54	3	...	2	...	...	10,503
Indigo Division	11	340	11	14	10	37	180	...	15	...	...	4	46	...	32	...	...	1	8	...	20,658
Buckland Division	2	22	...	...	...	...	2,000	...	42	44	2	18	253	15	284	...	...	...	...	...	37,700
Alexandra Subdivision	4	60	2	6	5	...	40	...	2	4	...	11	140	1	106	...	...	6	7	...	17,500
Dry Creek Subdivision	...	...	...	...	...	...	400	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	400
Benalla Subdivision	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gaffney's Creek Subdivision	...	...	...	...	...	1	160	...	12	12	...	4	64	12	172	1	3	...	...	...	17,643
Wood's Point Subdivision	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	...	12	12	...	10	152	7	179	2	...	1	1	...	25,580
Big River Subdivision	...	...	...	...	...	...	150	...	7	7	...	6	60	...	47	...	...	...	...	...	5,454
Mitta-mitta Division	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	10	10	...	6	50	...	36	...	...	...	...	...	5,500
Jamieson Subdivision	...	...	...	...	...	...	400	...	...	...	...	4	47	2	64	...	...	...	...	...	15,000
Totals	44	702	13	24	23	41	11,730	12	176	130	4	75	1,008	42	1,049	6	4	15	16	1	209,198

No. 13.

NUMBER of MACHINES employed in ALLUVIAL and QUARTZ MINING in the Mining District of SANDHURST during the Quarter ended 31st December 1876.

Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	Alluvial Mining										Quartz Mining.							Approximate Value of all Mining Plant in the Divisions or Subdivisions.
	Steam-engines employed in Winding, Pumping, &c.		Horse Puddling Machines.	Whims.	Whips or Pulleys.	Sluices, Toms, and Sluice-boxes.	Pumps.	Quicksilver and Compound Cradles.	Stamp-heads (crushing Cement).	Boring Machines used in Blasting.	Steam-engines employed in Winding, Pumping, Crushing, &c.		Stamp-heads (crushing Quartz or other vein-stuff).	Buddles.	Whims.	Whips or Pulleys.	Boring Machines used in Blasting.	
	Total Number.	Aggregate Horse-power.									Total Number.	Aggregate Horse-power.						
																		£
Sandhurst Division	10	190	65	6	8	...	10	3	124	1	218	3,940	1,240	3	190	200	1	480,000
Kilmore Division	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heathcote Division and Waranga South Subdivision ...	...	...	40	4	10	30	50	...	...	...	20	389	129	...	7	20	...	28,697
Waranga North Subdivision	...	...	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	124	61	...	3	11	...	10,443
Totals	10	190	130	10	18	30	60	3	124	1	245	4,453	1,430	3	200	231	1	519,140

No. 14.

NUMBER of MACHINES employed in ALLUVIAL and QUARTZ MINING in the Mining District of MARYBOROUGH during the Quarter ended 31st December 1876.

Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	Alluvial Mining.												Quartz Mining.						Approximate Value of all Mining Plant in the Divisions or Subdivisions.
	Steam-engines employed in Winding, Pumping, &c.		Steam Puddling Machines.	Horse Puddling Machines.	Whims.	Whips or Pulleys.	Sluices, Toms, and Sluice-boxes.	Pumps.	Water-wheels.	Quicksilver and Compound Cradles.	Stamp-heads (crushing Cement).	Boring Machines.	Steam-engines employed in Winding, Pumping, Crushing, &c.		Stamp-heads (crushing Quartz or other vein-stuff).	Buddles.	Whims.	Whips or Pulleys.	
	Total Number.	Aggregate Horse-power.											Total Number.	Aggregate Horse-power.					
																			£
Maryborough Division	35	1,223	32	178	34	10	6	4	2	36	125	4	27	614	209	2	30	27	141,337
Majorca Subdivision	7	167	10	7	8	...	10	9	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,955
Amherst Division	6	100	8	27	9	26	35	40	2	28	12	...	4	64	44	...	6	16	12,360
Avoca Subdivision	1	25	...	100	...	...	34	17	...	4	...	...	5	88	73	...	4	4	6,179
Dunolly and Tarnagulla Divisions	2	32	2	55	14	4	...	...	...	8	...	...	27	525	180	...	26	19	47,516
Inglewood and Wedderburn Divisions	4	120	2	8	2	...	1	2	...	14	30	...	9	145	50	...	7	3	20,386
Redbank and St. Arnaud South Subdivisions	...	...	...	24	2	1	9	...	...	6	...	...	4	38	22	...	4	4	5,248
St. Arnaud North Subdivision	...	...	...	8	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	18	356	134	2	17	22	42,186
Totals	55	1,667	54	407	69	41	100	72	4	103	167	4	94	1,830	712	4	94	95	282,167

No. 15.

NUMBER of MACHINES employed in ALLUVIAL and QUARTZ MINING in the Mining District of CASTLEMAINE during the Quarter ended 31st December 1876.

Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	ALLUVIAL MINING.													QUARTZ MINING.								Approximate Value of all Mining Plant in the Divisions or Subdivisions.
	Steam-engines employed in Winding, Pumping, &c.		Steam Puddling Machines.	Horse Puddling Machines.	Whims.	Whips or Pulleys.	Sluices, Toms, and Sluice-boxes.	Hydraulic Hoses.	Pumps.	Water-wheels.	Quicksilver and Compound Cradles.	Stamp-heads (crushing Cement).	Boring Machines.	Steam-engines employed in Winding, Pumping, Crushing, &c.		Crushing Machines driven by other power than Steam.	Stamp-heads (crushing Quartz or other vein-stuff).	Buddles.	Winding, Washing, Pumping, or other Machines moved by Water-power.	Whims.	Whips or Pulleys.	Boring Machines used in Blasting.	
	Total Number.	Aggregate Horse-power.												Total Number.	Aggregate Horse-power.								
																							£
Castlemaine Division	1	20	2	64	...	...	96	6	7	...	...	...	...	38	690	...	287	4	...	26	28	...	67,688
Fryer's Creek Division	4	78	...	57	6	15	306	...	38	2	2	24	...	19	461	...	146	4	1	9	15	...	70,099
Hepburn Division	2	34	1	23	4	54	128	2	44	2	1	...	1	29	493	...	196	1	3	50	49	...	35,690
Taradale and Kyneton Subdivision	5	139	...	8	11	...	6	...	1	...	3	18	...	13	308	...	112	...	...	...	...	...	33,897
Tarrangower Division	...	...	...	16	...	2	9	...	41	...	23	...	...	34	747	...	240	...	...	29	12	...	54,075
St. Andrew's Division	...	...	...	12	6	...	20	12	3	4	...	...	...	5	62	2	36	...	...	6	4	1	4,808
Blue Mountain North Subdivision	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	28	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	1,900
Totals	13	279	3	180	27	71	565	20	134	8	29	42	1	140	2,789	2	1,025	9	4	120	108	1	268,157

No. 16.

NUMBER of MACHINES employed in ALLUVIAL and QUARTZ MINING in the Mining District of ARARAT during the Quarter ended 31st December 1876.

Mining Surveyors and Registrar's Divisions.	ALLUVIAL MINING.													QUARTZ MINING.					Approximate Value of all Mining Plant in the Divisions.
	Steam-engines employed in Winding, Pumping, &c.		Steam Puddling Machines.	Buddles.	Horse Puddling Machines.	Whims.	Whips or Pulleys.	Sluices, Toms, and Sluice-boxes.	Pumps.	Quicksilver and Compound Cradles.	Stamp-heads (crushing Cement).	Boring Machines.		Steam-engines employed in Winding, Pumping, Crushing, &c.		Stamp-heads (crushing Quartz or other vein-stuff).	Whims.	Whips or Pulleys.	
	Total Number.	Aggregate Horse-power.												Total Number.	Aggregate Horse-power.				
																			£
Ararat Division	4	35	...	1	11	3	4	30	12	4	29	...		4	92	30	1	1	14,230
Pleasant Creek Division	10	160	1	1	...	4	...	25	...	24	70	1		39	1,475	346	48	10	157,214
Barkly Division	1	10	...	...	12	2	...	5	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	865
Raglan Division	7	123	2	...	10	9	2	10	1	...	...	...		1	10	8	1	2	10,700
Totals	22	328	3	2	33	18	6	70	13	28	99	1		44	1,577	384	50	13	183,009

No. 17.

NUMBER of MACHINES employed in ALLUVIAL and QUARTZ MINING in the Mining District of GIPPSLAND during the Quarter ended 31st December 1876.

Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	ALLUVIAL MINING.											QUARTZ MINING.							Approximate Value of all Mining Plant in the Divisions or Subdivisions.
	Steam-engines employed in Winding, Pumping, &c.		Steam Puddling Machines.	Horse Puddling Machines.	Whims.	Whips or Pulleys.	Sluices, Toms, and Sluice-boxes.	Hydraulic Hoses.	Pumps.	Water-wheels.	Boring Machines.	Steam-engines employed in Winding, Pumping, Crushing, &c.		Crushing Machines driven by other power than Steam.	Stamp-heads (crushing Quartz or other vein-stuff).	Buddles.	Whims.	Whips or Pulleys.	Boring Machines (used in blasting).	
	Number.	Aggregate Horse-power.										Number.	Aggregate Horse-power.							£
Omeo Subdivision ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	935	2	22	22	...	1	17	1	20	...	...	1	...	6,095
Mitchell River and Boggy Creek Subdivisions ...	...	...	...	...	...	40	140	...	...	...	...	2	20	...	17	...	1	...	...	1,700
Crooked River Division ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	...	20	10	...	8	137	4	126	...	...	...	1	32,222
Jericho Division... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90	...	20	20	...	5	70	...	58	1	...	...	...	13,300
Donnelly's Creek Division	1	10	...	...	1	...	30	...	...	...	...	3	58	3	62	...	...	...	...	12,555
Stringer's Creek Division	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	164	1	136	2	...	...	...	49,366
Aberfeldy Subdivision ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	35	1	40	...	...	...	...	7,400
Russell's Creek Subdivision	...	...	...	2	1	...	12	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Bendoc Subdivision ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	...	12	12	...	2	28	1	24	...	...	...	...	2,336
Tarwin Subdivision ...	2	20	1	4	5	12	4	...	2	...	1	2	37	1	25	...	...	...	...	4,365
Traralgon Subdivision ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Totals	3	30	1	6	7	52	1,461	3	76	64	2	35	566	12	508	3	1	1	1	129,424

No. 18.

SUMMARY.

NUMBER of distinct QUARTZ REEFS actually proved to be Auriferous, and the Total Extent in Square Miles of Auriferous ALLUVIAL and QUARTZ GROUND actually worked upon, in the several Mining Districts.

Mining Districts.	Number of distinct Quartz Reefs proved to be Auriferous.	Extent in Square Miles of Auriferous Alluvial and Quartz Ground worked upon.
Ballarat District	210	156
Beechworth District	749	290½
Sandhurst District	776	141
Maryborough District	604	87¼
Castlemaine District	400	166
Ararat District	77	83¼
Gippsland District	491	210
Totals	3,307	1,134

NOTE.—The number of "distinct" quartz reefs cannot be strictly correct, as parts of the same reef, in some localities, are held to be distinct reefs, and named accordingly. As the reefs are further explored, it is found, too, that what were supposed to be separate reefs are not really distinct. The extent of auriferous ground is here put down from estimates made by the Mining Surveyors and Registrars, not from actual surveys; and in a few instances the estimates of the present Surveyors and Registrars differ from those made by their predecessors. The figures vary from year to year; as the shallow alluviums of the older goldfields are abandoned by the miners, they are taken up and occupied, under the provisions of the Land Act, by agriculturists and gardeners, and ground which one year was included in the estimated area of gold-workings is excluded in another.

No. 19.

TABLE showing the Number of distinct QUARTZ REEFS actually proved to be Auriferous, and the Total Extent in Square Miles of Auriferous ALLUVIAL and QUARTZ GROUND actually worked upon, in the several DIVISIONS and SUBDIVISIONS of each Mining District.

Mining Districts.	Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	Number of distinct Quartz Reefs proved to be Auriferous.	Extent in Square Miles of Auriferous Alluvial and Quartz Ground worked upon.	Remarks.
BALLARAT	Central Division	24	39	
	Southern Division	17	11	
	Buninyong Division	13	16	
	Smythesdale Division	12	18	
	Creswick Division	16	13	
	Gordon Subdivision	19	3½	
	Steiglitz Subdivision	75	50	
	Blackwood Division and Blue Mountain South Subdivision	31	4½	
	Ballan Subdivision	3	1	
	Totals	210	156	

No. 19.—TABLE showing Number of distinct Quartz Reefs actually proved to be Auriferous, &c.—*continued.*

Mining Districts.	Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	Number of distinct Quartz Reefs proved to be Auriferous.	Extent in Square Miles of Auriferous Alluvial and Quartz Ground worked upon.	Remarks.
BEECHWORTH ...	Beechworth Division	102	47	
	Yackandandah Division	80	12	
	Indigo Division	25	8	
	Buckland Division*	279	61	
	Alexandra Subdivision	74	35	
	Dry Creek Subdivision	...	6½	
	Benalla Subdivision	3	10	
	Gaffney's Creek Subdivision	19	24	
	Wood's Point Subdivision	95	18	
	Big River Subdivision	14	33	
	Mitta-mitta Division	32	27	
	Jamieson Subdivision	26	9	
	Totals	749	290½	
SANDHURST ...	Sandhurst Division	321	22	
	Kilmore Division	127	27	
	Heathcote Division and Waranga South Subdivision	204	81	
	Waranga North Subdivision	124	11	
	Totals	776	141	
MARYBOROUGH ...	Maryborough Division	162	5	
	Majorca Subdivision	1	2½	
	Amherst Division	30	5	
	Avoca Subdivision	40	18½	
	Dunolly and Tarnagulla Divisions	185	16	
	Inglewood and Wedderburn Divisions ...	89	19	
	Redbank and St. Arnaud South Subdivisions	28	14¼	
	St. Arnaud North Subdivision	69	7	
	Totals	604	87¼	
CASTLEMAINE ...	Castlemaine Division	103	9¼	
	Fryer's Creek Division	37	28¾	
	Hepburn Division	88	82	
	Taradale and Kyneton Subdivision	19	22	
	Tarrangower Division	74	4½	
	St. Andrew's Division	75	15½	
	Blue Mountain North Subdivision ...	4	4	
	Totals	400	166	
ARARAT	Ararat Division	26	34	
	Pleasant Creek Division	37	27	
	Barkly Division	9	16	
	Raglan Division	5	6¼	
	Totals	77	83¼	
GIPPSLAND	Omeo Subdivision	23	11	
	Mitchell River and Boggy Creek Subdivisions	14	23	
	Crooked River Division	350	49½	
	Jericho Division	33	26	
	Donnelly's Creek Division	18	6½	
	Stringer's Creek Division	13	7	
	Aberfeldy Subdivision	4	20	
	Russell's Creek Subdivision	16	35	
	Bendoc Subdivision	15	27	
	Tarwin Subdivision	4	3	
	Traralgon Subdivision	1	2	
	Totals	491	210	

* The list of distinct reefs in this division has been revised and the number reduced.

No. 20.

SUMMARY.

AVERAGE YIELD of GOLD from certain parcels of QUARTZ Crushed in 1876 in the several MINING DISTRICTS, from Returns made by the Mining Surveyors and Registrars.

Mining Districts.	Tons Crushed.	Total Produce.	Average Yield per Ton.
	tons cwt.	ozs. dwts. grs.	ozs. dwts. grs.
Ballarat District	315,407 6	104,126 1 5	0 6 14·46
Beechworth District	65,638 12	37,004 9 9	0 11 6·61
Sandhurst District	356,927 10	213,317 18 23	0 11 22·86
Maryborough District	32,605 0	14,309 9 19	0 8 18·66
Castlemaine District	111,716 10	42,463 12 12	0 7 14·45
Ararat District	88,729 0	75,136 6 14	0 16 22·47
Gippsland District	40,784 6	47,970 8 9	1 3 12·58
Totals	1,011,808 4	534,328 6 19	0 10 13·48

NOTE.—*The above table does not show the total quantity of quartz crushed in the several localities, but only the yield of certain "crushings" respecting which the Mining Surveyors and Registrars have been able to obtain information.* Owing to the circumstance that many of the machine-owners are unable to give, or are precluded from giving, information, it is impossible to get complete returns from every district, and in considering the relative importance of each district as regards quartz mining, the tables relating to machinery should be examined and compared.

Since the first publication of the Statistics, information has been obtained concerning 13,402,915 tons 2 cwt. which have been crushed, and yielded 7,547,530 ozs. 3 dwts. 5 grs. of gold, being an average of 11 dwts. 6·30 grs. per ton.

No. 21.

TABLE showing the AVERAGE YIELD of GOLD from certain parcels of QUARTZ Crushed in 1876 in the several DIVISIONS and SUBDIVISIONS of each Mining District, from Returns made by the Mining Surveyors and Registrars.

Mining Districts.	Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	Tons Crushed.	Total Produce.	Average Yield per Ton.	Remarks.
		tons cwt.	ozs. dwts. grs.	ozs. dwts. grs.	
BALLARAT	Central Division	116,770 0	29,810 8 17	0 5 2·54	
	Southern Division	10,000 0	1,847 11 14	0 3 16·68	
	Buninyong Division	14,206 0	2,455 11 7	0 3 10·97	
	Smythesdale Division	5,545 16	2,366 6 17	0 8 12·81	
	Creswick Division	112,232 0	35,723 8 16	0 6 8·78	
	Gordon Subdivision	25,147 0	15,834 4 8	0 12 14·24	
	Steiglitz Subdivision	3,673 0	2,923 17 5	0 15 22·10	
	Blackwood Division and Blue Mountain South Subdivision ...	27,761 10	13,065 12 17	0 9 9·91	
	Ballan Subdivision	72 0	99 0 0	1 7 12	
	Totals	315,407 6	104,126 1 5	0 6 14·46	
BEECHWORTH ...	Beechworth Division	7,913 0	4,240 19 6	0 10 17·26	
	Yackandandah Division	1,966 10	916 16 0	0 9 7·78	
	Indigo Division	2,694 10	2,934 10 12	1 1 18·76	
	Buckland Division	21,383 0	16,183 12 18	0 15 3·29	
	Alexandra Subdivision	1,968 15	1,331 16 4	0 13 12·71	
	Dry Creek Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Benalla Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Gaffney's Creek Subdivision ...	9,023 0	2,078 15 21	0 4 14·59	
	Wood's Point Subdivision	9,340 0	1,428 10 18	0 3 1·42	
	Big River Subdivision	2,187 0	476 10 0	0 4 8·58	
	Mitta-mitta Division	3,773 0	3,698 11 0	0 19 14·53	
	Jamieson Subdivision	5,389 17	3,714 7 2	0 13 18·79	
	Totals	65,638 12	37,004 9 9	0 11 6·61	
SANDHURST	Sandhurst Division	352,117 0	209,415 11 13	0 11 21·47	
	Kilmore Division	...	...	...	
	Heathcote Division and Waranga South Subdivision	2,503 0	1,530 13 9	0 12 5·54	
	Waranga North Subdivision ...	2,307 10	2,371 14 1	1 0 13·36	
	Totals	356,927 10	213,317 18 23	0 11 22·86	
MARYBOROUGH ...	Maryborough Division	7,542 0	3,617 12 13	0 9 14·24	
	Majorca Subdivision	210 0	236 8 0	1 2 12·34	
	Amherst Division	5,085 0	2,383 15 19	0 9 9·02	
	Avoca Subdivision	3,861 0	1,114 9 23	0 5 18·55	
	Dunolly and Tarnagulla Divisions ...	6,332 0	3,005 12 22	0 9 11·84	
	Inglewood and Wedderburn Divisions	864 0	342 0 0	0 7 22·00	
	Redbank and St. Arnaud South Subdivisions	1,646 10	652 17 17	0 7 22·33	
	St. Arnaud North Subdivision ...	7,064 10	2,956 12 21	0 8 8·89	
	Totals	32,605 0	14,309 9 19	0 8 18·66	
CASTLEMAINE ...	Castlemaine Division	15,176 0	8,293 8 18	0 10 22·31	
	Fryer's Creek Division	23,507 0	5,675 7 20	0 4 19·89	
	Hepburn Division	46,350 0	11,970 4 11	0 5 3·96	
	Taradale and Kyneton Subdivision ...	14,131 0	4,256 10 1	0 6 0·58	
	Tarrangower Division	10,822 0	8,231 17 20	0 15 5·12	
	St. Andrew's Division	1,730 10	4,036 3 14	2 6 15·54	
	Blue Mountain North Subdivision ...	...	...	...	
	Totals	111,716 10	42,463 12 12	0 7 14·45	
ARARAT	Ararat Division	380 0	282 19 6	0 14 21·43	
	Pleasant Creek Division	88,349 0	74,853 7 8	0 16 22·68	
	Barkly Division	...	...	...	
	Raglan Division	...	...	...	
	Totals	88,729 0	75,136 6 14	0 16 22·47	
GIPPSLAND	Omeo Subdivision	326 16	332 1 21	1 0 7·78	
	Mitchell River and Boggy Creek Subdivisions	...	...	...	
	Crooked River Division	462 0	248 3 0	0 10 17·82	
	Jericho Division	919 0	304 14 0	0 6 15·15	
	Donnelly's Creek Division	1,316 0	371 3 12	0 5 15·38	
	Stringer's Creek Division	34,411 0	45,644 4 12	1 6 12·69	
	Aberfeldy Subdivision	2,700 0	522 10 8	0 3 20·89	
	Russell's Creek Subdivision ...	...	...	...	
	Bendoc Subdivision	133 0	36 10 0	0 5 11·73	
	Tarwin Subdivision	516 10	511 1 4	0 19 18·94	
	Traralgon Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Totals	40,784 6	47,970 8 9	1 3 12·58	

No. 22.

SUMMARY.

AVERAGE YIELD of GOLD from certain parcels of QUARTZ TAILINGS, MULLOCK, &c., Crushed in 1876 in the several MINING DISTRICTS, from Returns made by the Mining Surveyors and Registrars.

Mining Districts.	Tons Crushed.	Total Produce.	Average Yield per Ton.	Remarks.
	tons. cwt.	ozs. dwts. grs.	ozs. dwts. grs.	
Ballarat District	1,790 0	185 1 12	0 2 1·63	
Beechworth District	1,288 0	82 8 6	0 1 6·71	
Sandhurst District	13,154 0	512 19 21	0 0 18·72	
Maryborough District	10,318 0	1,959 12 17	0 3 19·16	
Castlemaine District	7,284 10	480 13 10	0 1 7·67	
Ararat District	793 17	60 15 4	0 1 12·74	
Gippsland District	...	...	...	
Totals	34,628 7	3,281 10 22	0 1 21·49	

NOTE.—From 1864 to 1876, inclusive, 1,728,959 tons 7 cwt. of Quartz Tailings, &c., were crushed, and yielded 306,831 ozs. 10 dwts. 23 grs. of gold, being an verage of 3 dwts. 13·18 grs. per ton.

No. 23.

TABLE showing the AVERAGE YIELD of GOLD from certain parcels of QUARTZ TAILINGS, MULLOCK, &c., Crushed in 1876 in the several DIVISIONS and SUBDIVISIONS of each Mining District, from Returns made by the Mining Surveyors and Registrars.

Mining Districts.	Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	Tons Crushed.	Total Produce.	Average Yield per Ton.	Remarks.
		tons.	ozs. dwts. grs.	ozs. dwts. grs.	
BALLARAT ...	Central Division	1,225	97 17 0	0 1 14·34	
	Southern Division	...	...	...	
	Buninyong Division	120	15 0 0	0 2 12	
	Smythesdale Division	60	1 7 12	0 0 11	
	Creswick Division	...	...	...	
	Gordon Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Steiglitz Subdivision	385	70 17 0	0 3 16·33	
	Blackwood Division and Blue Mountain South Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Ballan Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Totals	1,790	185 1 12	0 2 1·63	
BEECHWORTH ...	Beechworth Division	50	7 10 0	0 3 0	
	Yackandandah Division	...	...	...	
	Indigo Division	...	...	...	
	Buckland Division	...	...	...	
	Alexandra Subdivision	338	27 1 6	0 1 14·43	
	Dry Creek Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Benalla Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Gaffney's Creek Subdivision ...	900	47 17 0	0 1 1·52	
	Wood's Point Subdivision ...	...	...	...	
	Big River Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Mitta-mitta Division	...	...	...	
	Jamieson Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Totals	1,288	82 8 6	0 1 6·71	
SANDHURST ...	Sandhurst Division	3,069	253 4 19	0 1 15·61	
	Kilmore Division	...	...	...	
	Heathcote Division and Waranga South Subdivision	461	21 15 8	0 0 22·66	
	Waranga North Subdivision ...	9,624	237 19 18	0 0 11·87	
	Totals	13,154	512 19 21	0 0 18·72	

No. 23.

TABLE showing the Average Yield of Gold from certain parcels of Quartz Tailings, &c.—*continued.*

Mining Districts.	Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	Tons Crushed.	Total Produce.	Average Yield per Ton.	Remarks.
		tons. cwt.	ozs. dwts. grs.	ozs. dwts. grs.	
MARYBOROUGH ...	Maryborough Division	1,571 0	119 7 18	0 1 12·48	
	Majorca Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Amherst Division	690 0	74 0 0	0 2 3·48	
	Avoca Subdivision	36 0	5 15 12	0 3 5	
	Dunolly and Tarnagulla Divisions ...	100 0	6 9 11	0 1 7·07	
	Inglewood and Wedderburn Divisions	...	...	...	
	Redbank and St. Arnaud South Subdivisions	1,747 0	303 18 0	0 3 12·88	
	St. Arnaud North Subdivision ...	6,174 0	1,445 2 0	0 4 0·80	
	Totals	10,318 0	1,959 12 17	0 3 19·16	
CASTLEMAINE ...	Castlemaine Division	3,641 0	278 8 10	0 1 12·70	
	Fryer's Creek Division	...	...	...	
	Hepburn Division	232 0	15 14 6	0 1 8·51	
	Taradale and Kyneton Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Tarrangower Division	3,372 0	174 7 18	0 1 0·82	
	St. Andrew's Division	39 10	12 3 0	0 6 3·65	
	Blue Mountain North Subdivision...	...	...	...	
	Totals	7,284 10	480 13 10	0 1 7·67	
ARARAT	Ararat Division	...	...	...	
	Pleasant Creek Division	793 17	60 15 4	0 1 12·74	
	Barkly Division	...	...	...	
	Raglan Division	...	...	...	
	Totals	793 17	60 15 4	0 1 12·74	
GIPPSLAND ...	Omeo Subdivision	Nil	Nil	Nil	
	Mitchell River and Boggy Creek Subdivisions				
	Crooked River Division				
	Jericho Division				
	Donnelly's Creek Division ...				
	Stringer's Creek Division				
	Russell's Creek Subdivision ...				
	Aberfeldy Subdivision				
	Bendoc Subdivision				
	Tarwin Subdivision				
	Traralgon Subdivision				
	Totals	Nil	Nil	Nil	

No. 24.

SUMMARY.

AVERAGE YIELD of GOLD from certain parcels of PYRITES and BLANKETINGS operated on in 1876 in the several MINING DISTRICTS, from Returns made by the Mining Surveyors and Registrars.

Mining Districts.	Quantity operated on.	Total Produce.	Average Yield per Ton.	Remarks.
	tons cwt.	ozs. dwts. grs.	ozs. dwts. grs.	
Ballarat District	1,039 0	3,292 7 18	3 3 9·02	
Beechworth District	453 12	764 0 0	1 13 16·46	
Sandhurst District	5,036 0	12,106 6 12	2 8 1·90	
Maryborough District	39 0	58 10 6	1 10 0·08	
Castlemaine District	208 0	513 6 5	2 9 8·56	
Ararat District	...	...	...	
Gippsland District	281 11	804 9 4	2 17 3·48	
Totals	7,057 3	17,538 19 21	2 9 16·93	

NOTE.—From 1869 to 1876, inclusive, 40,001 tons 17 cwt. of pyrites, &c., were operated on, and yielded 106,655 ozs. 18 dwts. 13 grs. of gold, being an average of 2 ozs. 13 dwts. 7·81 grs. per ton.

No. 25.

TABLE showing the AVERAGE YIELD of GOLD from certain parcels of PYRITES and BLANKETINGS operated on in 1876 in the several DIVISIONS and SUBDIVISIONS of each Mining District, from Returns made by the Mining Surveyors and Registrars.

Mining Districts.	Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	Quantity operated on.	Total Produce.	Average Yield per Ton.	Remarks.
		tons cwt.	ozs. dwts. grs.	ozs. dwts. grs.	
BALLARAT ...	Central Division	108 0	209 8 6	1 18 18·72	
	Southern Division	...	...	...	
	Buninyong Division	...	...	...	
	Smythesdale Division	...	...	...	
	Creswick Division	634 0	2,411 16 12	3 16 1·99	
	Gordon Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Steiglitz Subdivision	201 0	392 0 0	1 19 0·11	
	Blackwood Division and Blue Mountain South Subdivision ...	96 0	279 3 0	2 18 3·75	
	Ballan Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Totals	1,039 0	3,292 7 18	3 3 9·02	
BEECHWORTH ...	Beechworth Division	56 12	86 7 0	1 10 12·30	
	Yackandandah Division	78 0	126 11 12	1 12 10·93	
	Indigo Division	...	...	...	
	Buckland Division	242 0	341 19 12	1 8 6·29	
	Alexandra Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Dry Creek Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Benalla Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Gaffney's Creek Subdivision ...	...	...	...	
	Wood's Point Subdivision ...	77 0	209 2 0	2 14 7·48	
	Big River Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Mitta-mitta Division	...	...	...	
	Jamieson Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Totals	453 12	764 0 0	1 13 16·46	
SANDHURST ...	Sandhurst Division	4,986 0	12,006 6 12	2 8 3·84	
	Kilmore Division	...	...	...	
	Heathcote Division and Waranga South Subdivision	50 0	100 0 0	2 0 0	
	Waranga North Subdivision ...	...	...	...	
	Totals	5,036 0	12,106 6 12	2 8 1·90	
MARYBOROUGH ...	Maryborough Division	8 0	9 0 0	1 2 12	
	Majorca Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Amherst Division	...	...	...	
	Avoca Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Dunolly and Tarnagulla Divisions ...	1 0	0 10 6	0 10 6	
	Inglewood and Wedderburn Divisions	...	...	...	
	Redbank and St. Arnaud South Subdivisions	10 0	40 0 0	4 0 0	
	St. Arnaud North Subdivision ...	20 0	9 0 0	0 9 0	
	Totals	39 0	58 10 6	1 10 0·08	
CASTLEMAINE ...	Castlemaine Division	168 10	385 7 5	2 5 17·76	
	Fryer's Creek Division	...	...	...	
	Hepburn Division	35 10	119 10 0	3 7 7·77	
	Taradale and Kyneton Subdivision	4 0	8 9 0	2 2 6	
	Tarrangower Division	...	...	...	
	St. Andrew's Division	...	...	...	
	Blue Mountain North Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Totals	208 0	513 6 5	2 9 8·56	
ARARAT	Ararat Division	Nil	Nil	Nil	
	Pleasant Creek Division				
	Barkly Division				
	Raglan Division				
	Totals	Nil	Nil	Nil	
GIPPSLAND ...	Omeo Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Mitchell River and Boggy Creek Subdivisions	...	...	...	
	Crooked River Division	...	...	...	
	Jericho Division	...	...	...	
	Donnelly's Creek Division ...	...	...	...	
	Stringer's Creek Division	231 1	654 1 0	2 16 14·77	
	Aberfeldy Subdivision	50 10	150 8 4	2 19 13·62	
	Russell's Creek Subdivision ...	...	...	...	
	Bendoc Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Tarwin Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Traralgon Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Totals	281 11	804 9 4	2 17 3·48	

No. 26.

SUMMARY.

AVERAGE YIELD of GOLD from certain parcels of WASHDIRT Puddled and Sluiced in 1876 in the several MINING DISTRICTS, from Returns made by the Mining Surveyors and Registrars.

Mining Districts.	Tons Puddled or Sluiced.	Total Produce.	Average Yield per Ton.	Remarks.
	tons cwt.	ozs. dwts. grs.	ozs. dwts. grs.	
Ballarat District	68,932 0	3,178 8 9	0 0 22·13	
Beechworth District	51,632 0	2,618 8 0	0 1 0·34	
Sandhurst District	10,470 0	1,413 9 15	0 2 16·80	
Maryborough District	55,056 2	8,148 14 12	0 2 23·04	
Castlemaine District	380,607 0	11,123 2 16	0 0 14·03	
Ararat District	7,175 0	577 1 18	0 1 14·61	
Gippsland District	292 0	57 9 0	0 3 22·44	
Totals	574,164 2	27,116 13 22	0 0 22·67	

NOTE.—*The above table does not show the total quantity of washdirt puddled or sluiced in the several localities, but only the yield of certain "washings" respecting which the Mining Surveyors and Registrars have been able to obtain information.* Owing to the circumstance that many of the machine-owners are unable to give, or are precluded from giving, information, it is impossible to get complete returns from every district, and in considering the relative importance of each district as regards alluvial mining, the tables relating to machinery should be examined and compared.

NOTE.—The collection of the statistical information relating to the yield of gold from washdirt was commenced during the quarter ending 30th June 1872, from which period to 1876 inclusive, 4,766,741 tons 19 cwt. of washdirt were puddled and sluiced, and yielded 287,871 ozs. of gold, being an average of 1 dwt. 4·99 grs. per ton.

No. 27.

TABLE showing the AVERAGE YIELD of GOLD from certain parcels of WASHDIRT Puddled and Sluiced in 1876 in the several DIVISIONS and SUBDIVISIONS of each Mining District, from Returns made by the Mining Surveyors and Registrars.

Mining Districts.	Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	Tons Puddled or Sluiced.	Total Produce.	Average Yield per Ton.	Remarks.
		tons.	ozs. dwts. grs.	ozs. dwts. grs.	
BALLARAT ...	Central Division	18,873	1,594 18 12	0 1 16·56	
	Southern Division	8,299	1,017 15 21	0 2 10·87	
	Buninyong Division	...	...	...	
	Smythesdale Division	...	...	...	
	Creswick Division	...	...	...	
	Gordon Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Steiglitz Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Blackwood Division and Blue Mountain South Subdivision	41,760	565 14 0	0 0 6·50	
	Ballan Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Totals	68,932	3,178 8 9	0 0 22·13	
BEECHWORTH ...	Beechworth Division	45,644	1,381 11 12	0 0 14·53	
	Yackandandah Division	...	...	...	
	Indigo Division	5,958	1,228 15 12	0 4 2·99	
	Buckland Division	...	...	...	
	Alexandra Subdivision	30	8 1 0	0 5 8·80	
	Dry Creek Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Benalla Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Gaffney's Creek Subdivision ...	...	...	...	
	Wood's Point Subdivision... ...	...	...	...	
	Big River Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Mitta-mitta Division	...	...	...	
	Jamieson Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Totals	51,632	2,618 8 0	0 1 0·34	
SANDHURST ...	Sandhurst Division	10,470	1,413 9 15	0 2 16·80	
	Kilmore Division...	...	...	...	
	Heathcote Division and Waranga South Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Waranga North Subdivision ...	...	...	...	
	Totals	10,470	1,413 9 15	0 2 16·80	

No. 27.—TABLE showing the Average Yield of Gold from certain parcels of Washdirt—*continued.*

Mining Districts.	Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	Tons Puddled or Sluiced.	Total Produce.	Average Yield per Ton.	Remarks.
		tons cwt.	ozs. dwts. grs.	ozs. dwts. grs.	
MARYBOROUGH ...	Maryborough Division	14,466 0	2,513 0 0	0 3 11·38	
	Majorca Division	...	...	...	
	Amherst Division	31,990 2	3,870 6 0	0 2 10·07	
	Avoca Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Dunolly and Tarnagulla Divisions ...	6,500 0	1,429 0 0	0 4 9·53	
	Inglewood and Wedderburn Divisions	2,100 0	336 8 12	0 3 4·90	
	Redbank and St. Arnaud South Subdivisions	...	...	...	
	St. Arnaud North Subdivision ...	...	...	...	
	Totals	55,056 2	8,148 14 12	0 2 23·04	
CASTLEMAINE ...	Castlemaine Division	4,550 0	110 16 0	0 0 11·60	
	Fryer's Creek Division	84,980 0	1,842 6 4	0 0 10·41	
	Hepburn Division	278,396 0	8,757 10 14	0 0 15·09	
	Taradale and Kyneton Subdivision	650 0	65 3 0	0 2 0·11	
	Tarrangower Division	12,031 0	347 6 22	0 0 13·86	
	St. Andrew's Division	...	...	...	
	Blue Mountain North Subdivision...	...	...	...	
	Totals	380,607 0	11,123 2 16	0 0 14·03	
ARARAT	Ararat Division	...	...	...	
	Pleasant Creek Division	...	...	...	
	Barkly Division	...	...	...	
	Raglan Division	7,175 0	577 1 18	0 1 14·61	
	Totals	7,175 0	577 1 18	0 1 14·61	
GIPPSLAND ...	Omeo Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Mitchell River and Boggy Creek Subdivisions	...	...	...	
	Crooked River Division	...	...	...	
	Jericho Division	...	...	...	
	Donnelly's Creek Division ...	...	...	...	
	Stringer's Creek Division	...	...	...	
	Aberfeldy Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Russell's Creek Subdivision ...	292 0	57 9 0	0 3 22·44	
	Bendoc Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Tarwin Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Traralgon Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Totals	292 0	57 9 0	0 3 22·44	

No. 28.

SUMMARY.

AVERAGE YIELD of GOLD from certain parcels of CEMENT Crushed in 1876 in the several MINING DISTRICTS, from Returns made by the Mining Surveyors and Registrars.

Mining Districts.	Quantity Crushed.	Total Produce.	Average Yield per Ton.	Remarks.
	tons cwt.	ozs. dwts. grs.	ozs. dwts. grs.	
Ballarat District	4,889 0	907 12 7	0 3 17·11	
Beechworth District	...	...	...	
Sandhurst District	1,200 0	212 1 12	0 3 12·83	
Maryborough District	4,903 0	1,121 9 5	0 4 13·79	
Castlemaine District	3,626 0	598 19 0	0 3 7·29	
Ararat District	21,245 7	5,328 13 19	0 5 0·39	
Gippsland District	75 0	2 19 9	0 0 19·00	
Totals	35,938 7	8,171 15 4	0 4 13·14	

NOTE.—The collection of the statistical information in the above table in a separate form was commenced during the quarter ending 30th June 1872. In previous years it has been included with quartz tailings, mullock, &c., crushed. (See tables Nos. 22 and 23.) From 1872 to 1876, inclusive, 249,615 tons 6 cwt. of cement were crushed, and yielded 53,793 ozs. 4 dwts. 7 grs. of gold, being an average of 4 dwts. 7·44 grs. per ton.

No. 29.

TABLE showing the AVERAGE YIELD of GOLD from certain parcels of CEMENT Crushed in 1876 in the several DIVISIONS and SUBDIVISIONS of each Mining District, from Returns made by the Mining Surveyors and Registrars.

Mining Districts.	Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	Quantity Crushed.	Average Yield per Ton.	Total Produce.	Remarks.
		tons cwt.	ozs. dwts. grs.	ozs. dwts. grs.	
BALLARAT ...	Central Division	106 0	16 0 0	0 3 0·45	
	Southern Division	1,704 0	537 15 5	0 6 7·48	
	Buninyong Division	...	...	...	
	Smythesdale Division	141 0	61 16 1	0 8 18·39	
	Creswick Division	...	...	...	
	Gordon Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Steiglitz Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Blackwood Division and Blue Mountain South Subdivision ...	2,938 0	292 1 1	0 1 23·71	
	Ballan Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Totals	4,889 0	907 12 7	0 3 17·11	
BEECHWORTH ...	Beechworth Division	Nil	Nil	Nil	
	Yackandandah Division				
	Indigo Division				
	Buckland Division				
	Alexandra Subdivision				
	Dry Creek Subdivision				
	Benalla Subdivision				
	Gaffney's Creek Subdivision ...				
	Wood's Point Subdivision ...				
	Big River Subdivision				
	Mitta-mitta Division				
	Jamieson Subdivision				
	Totals	Nil	Nil	Nil	
SANDHURST ...	Sandhurst Division	1,200 0	212 1 12	0 3 12·83	
	Kilmore Division	...	...	...	
	Heathcote Division and Waranga South Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Waranga North Subdivision ...	...	...	...	
	Totals	1,200 0	212 1 12	0 3 12·83	
MARYBOROUGH ...	Maryborough Division	2,211 0	212 5 20	0 1 22·09	
	Majorca Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Amherst Division	1,880 0	208 0 0	0 2 5·11	
	Avoca Subdivision	6 0	0 12 12	0 2 2	
	Dunolly and Tarnagulla Divisions ...	306 0	75 10 21	0 4 22·57	
	Inglewood and Wedderburn Divisions	500 0	625 0 0	1 5 0	
	Redbank and St. Arnaud South Subdivisions	...	...	...	
	St. Arnaud North Subdivision ...	...	...	...	
	Totals	4,903 0	1,121 9 5	0 4 13·79	
CASTLEMAINE ...	Castlemaine Division	...	...	...	
	Fryer's Creek Division	2,932 0	480 5 0	0 3 6·62	
	Hepburn Division	692 0	118 13 0	0 3 10·30	
	Taradale and Kyneton Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Tarrangower Division	...	...	...	
	St. Andrew's Division	...	...	...	
	Blue Mountain North Subdivision	2 0	0 1 0	0 0 12	
	Totals	3,626 0	598 19 0	0 3 7·29	
ARARAT	Ararat Division	3,026 0	529 14 14	0 3 12·03	
	Pleasant Creek Division	18,219 7	4,798 19 5	0 5 6·43	
	Barkly Division	...	...	...	
	Raglan Division	...	...	...	
	Totals	21,245 7	5,328 13 19	0 5 0·39	
GIPPSLAND ...	Omeo Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Mitchell River and Boggy Creek Subdivisions	...	...	...	
	Crooked River Division	...	...	...	
	Jericho Division	...	...	...	
	Donnelly's Creek Division ...	...	...	...	
	Stringer's Creek Division	...	...	...	
	Aberfeldy Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Russell's Creek Subdivision ...	...	...	...	
	Bendoc Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Tarwin Subdivision	75 0	2 19 9	0 0 19	
	Traralgon Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Totals	75 0	2 19 9	0 0 19	

No. 30.

SUMMARY.

PRICES charged per Ton for CRUSHING QUARTZ and CEMENT in the several MINING DISTRICTS during the Quarter ended 31st December 1876.

Mining Districts.	From			To		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Ballarat District	0	2	6	0	12	6
Beechworth District	0	4	6	1	0	0
Sandhurst District...	0	6	0	0	10	0
Maryborough District	0	5	0	0	10	0
Castlemaine District	0	3	0	0	14	0
Ararat District	0	6	6	0	9	0
Gippsland District...	0	10	0	1	0	0
Lowest and Highest Prices	0	2	6	1	0	0

No. 31.

SUMMARY.

PRICE of GOLD per Ounce in the several MINING DISTRICTS during the Quarter ended 31st December 1876.

Mining Districts.	From			To		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Ballarat District	3	17	0	4	3	9
Beechworth District	3	0	0	4	2	6
Sandhurst District...	3	11	9	4	2	2
Maryborough District	3	14	6	4	2	0
Castlemaine District	3	17	6	4	1	6
Ararat District	3	13	6	4	1	3
Gippsland District...	3	8	0	4	0	0
Lowest and Highest Prices	3	0	0	4	3	9

No. 32.

QUANTITY of GOLD EXPORTED during the Year 1876, as returned by the Customs Department.

ozs.	dwts.
506,345	6

NOTE.—In addition to the above, 19,109 ozs. 13 dwts. New Zealand gold have been shipped from this colony during the year.

No. 33.

RETURN showing approximately the GOLD obtained from QUARTZ VEINS and ALLUVIAL WORKINGS during the Year 1876.

	ozs.	dwts.
From Quartz Veins	587,291	9
From Alluvial Workings...	346,932	13
Total Gold Exported and Minted	934,224	2

NOTE.—The above figures are but rough approximations. The Mining Surveyors and Registrars can furnish only estimates based on information afforded by the banks and gold-buyers, and on their own knowledge of the character of the workings in their districts. The check on the returns—and not a sufficient one—is that afforded by the returns of quartz and quartz tailings crushed, pyrites operated on, and washdirt and cement treated, which, however, cannot and do not comprise information respecting all the stuff put through the mills.

No. 34.

STATEMENT of VICTORIAN GOLD received at the Melbourne Branch of the ROYAL MINT during the Year 1876, as returned by the Deputy-Master of the Mint.

Gross Weight of Rough Gold.	Gross Weight of Gold Bullion.
ozs.	ozs.
21,848·81	406,029·98

NOTE.—The Mint has no evidence beyond the statement of the depositors that the above is Victorian gold. Gold was first received at the Mint on the 30th April 1872.

No. 35.

RETURN of the Number of GOLD-MINING LEASES in force on the 31st December 1876, and the Extent of GROUND LEASED.

Mining Districts.	Number of Leases.	Extent.		
		A.	R.	P.
Ballarat District	90	3,559	0	$19\frac{7}{10}$
Beechworth District	181	2,865	2	29
Sandhurst District...	616	4,249	3	$6\frac{2}{3}$
Maryborough District	164	3,502	0	28
Castlemaine District	194	2,340	2	$33\frac{1}{2}$
Ararat District	76	1,324	2	19
Gippsland District	79	1,406	3	32
Totals	1,400	19,249	0	$7\frac{6}{10}$

NOTE.—The total number of Gold-Mining Leases granted since the commencement is 10,147, for an area of 185,149a. 2r. 12 1-20p. The above table shows those only which were actually in force on the 31st December 1876.

No. 36.

RETURN of the Number of GOLD-MINING LEASES Issued in the Year 1876, and the Extent of GROUND LEASED.

Mining Districts.	Number of Leases.	Extent.		
		A.	R.	P.
Ballarat District	19	462	0	4
Beechworth District	40	407	3	2
Sandhurst District	95	718	0	4
Maryborough District	33	1,044	3	18
Castlemaine District	48	664	1	16
Ararat District	15	255	0	19
Gippsland District	24	526	0	30
Totals	274	4,078	1	13

No. 37.

SUMMARY.

AREA of LAND held as CLAIMS under the District Bye-laws, and the portion of the same protected by Registration or by Exemption Certificates, in the several MINING DISTRICTS, on the 31st December 1876.

Mining Districts.	Total Area of Land held as Claims under the Bye-laws.			Aggregate Area of Ground not being worked, being protected by Certificates.		
	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.
Ballarat District	28,981	0	39	3,231	3	1
Beechworth District	11,892	2	4	157	0	0
Sandhurst District...	1,332	2	24	81	3	24
Maryborough District	4,297	3	1	81	2	20
Castlemaine District	2,993	2	7	193	1	0
Ararat District	770	0	0	36	2	0
Gippsland District	2,120	1	31	44	0	0
Totals	52,388	0	26	3,826	0	5

NOTE.—The areas given in the second column are included in the first.

No. 38.

TABLE showing the AREA of LAND held as CLAIMS under the District Bye-laws, and the portion of the same not being worked, being protected by Registration or by Exemption Certificates, in the several DIVISIONS and SUBDIVISIONS, on the 31st December 1876.

Mining Districts.	Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	Total Area of Land held as Claims under the Bye-laws.			Aggregate Area of ground not being worked, being protected by Certificates.		
		A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.
BALLARAT	Central Division	16,750	0	0	1,590	3	0
	Southern Division	1,820	0	0	44	3	37
	Buninyong Division	1,135	0	0	32	1	0
	Smythesdale Division	5,981	3	25	197	2	0
	Creswick Division	1,165	0	0	109	2	6
	Gordon Subdivision	88	2	6	41	1	5
	Steiglitz Subdivision	1,590	3	8	1,193	0	16
	Blackwood Division and Blue Mountain South Subdivision	450	0	0	22	1	17
	Ballan Subdivision	Nil			Nil		
	Totals	28,981	0	39	3,231	3	1
BEECHWORTH ...	Beechworth Division	5,050	0	0	20	0	0
	Yackandandah Division	800	0	0	35	0	0
	Indigo Division	1,420	0	0	28	0	0
	Buckland Division	467	0	0	37	0	0
	Alexandra Subdivision	120	0	0	Nil		
	Dry Creek Subdivision	75	2	4	Nil		
	Benalla Subdivision	Nil			Nil		
	Gaffney's Creek Subdivision	40	0	0	Nil		
	Wood's Point Subdivision	76	0	0	Nil		
	Big River Subdivision	44	0	0	Nil		
	Mitta Mitta Division	3,600	0	0	30	0	0
	Jamieson Subdivision	200	0	0	7	0	0
	Totals	11,892	2	4	157	0	0
SANDHURST	Sandhurst Division	1,000	0	0	57	0	0
	Kilmore Division	4	2	24	Nil		
	Heathcote Division and Waranga South Subdivision ...	250	0	0	9	3	24
	Waranga North Subdivision	78	0	0	15	0	0
	Totals	1,332	2	24	81	3	24
MARYBOROUGH ...	Maryborough Division	2,027	0	0	28	0	0
	Majorca Subdivision	12	3	0	Nil		
	Amherst Division	160	0	0	40	0	0
	Avoca Subdivision	12	2	0	5	1	0
	Dunolly and Tarnagulla Divisions	180	0	0	1	3	20
	Inglewood and Wedderburn Divisions	1,800	0	0	3	0	0
	Redbank and St. Arnaud South Subdivisions	55	2	1	Nil		
	St. Arnaud North Subdivision	50	0	0	3	2	0
	Totals	4,297	3	1	81	2	20
CASTLEMAINE ...	Castlemaine Division	291	0	0	16	2	35
	Fryer's Creek Division	330	0	0	15	0	0
	Hepburn Division	2,000	0	0	94	2	0
	Taradale and Kyneton Subdivision	245	2	3	40	2	12
	Tarrangower Division	97	3	4	17	2	33
	St. Andrew's Division	26	1	0	8	3	0
	Blue Mountain North Subdivision	3	0	0	Nil		
	Totals	2,993	2	7	193	1	0
ARARAT	Ararat Division	200	0	0	10	0	0
	Pleasant Creek Division	500	0	0	25	0	0
	Barkly Division	20	0	0	Nil		
	Raglan Division	50	0	0	1	2	0
	Totals	770	0	0	36	2	0
GIPPSLAND	Omeo Subdivision	560	3	31	Nil		
	Mitchell River and Boggy Creek Subdivisions ...	200	0	0	Nil		
	Crooked River Division	448	0	0	24	0	0
	Jericho Division	260	0	0	15	0	0
	Donnelly's Creek Division	2	0	0	Nil		
	Stringer's Creek Division	50	0	0	Nil		
	Aberfeldy Subdivision	8	0	0	Nil		
	Russell's Creek Subdivision	124	0	0	Nil		
	Bendoc Subdivision	78	2	0	Nil		
	Tarwin Subdivision	39	0	0	5	0	0
	Traralgon Subdivision	350	0	0	Nil		
	Totals	2,120	1	31	44	0	0

No. 39.

SUMMARY.

ESTIMATED VALUE of CLAIMS and LEASED LANDS in the several MINING DISTRICTS on the 31st December 1876.

Mining Districts.	Estimated Value.		
	£	s.	d.
Ballarat District	494,970	0	0
Beechworth District	280,900	0	0
Sandhurst District	2,587,430	0	0
Maryborough District	275,350	0	0
Castlemaine District	369,635	0	0
Ararat District	1,231,270	0	0
Gippsland District	506,035	0	0
Total	5,745,590	0	0

No. 40.

ESTIMATED VALUE of MINING CLAIMS and LEASED LANDS in the several DIVISIONS and SUBDIVISIONS of each Mining District on the 31st December 1876.

Mining Districts.	Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	Estimated Value.		
		£	s.	d.
BALLARAT	Central Division	146,000	0	0
	Southern Division	30,000	0	0
	Buninyong Division	5,680	0	0
	Smythesdale Division	30,000	0	0
	Creswick Division	143,640	0	0
	Gordon Subdivision	64,650	0	0
	Steiglitz Subdivision	30,000	0	0
	Blackwood Division and Blue Mountain South Subdivision	45,000	0	0
	Ballan Subdivision	...		
	Total	494,970	0	0
BEECHWORTH	Beechworth Division	95,000	0	0
	Yackandandah Division	20,000	0	0
	Indigo Division	40,000	0	0
	Buckland Division	26,800	0	0
	Alexandra Subdivision	19,000	0	0
	Dry Creek Subdivision	...		
	Benalla Subdivision	...		
	Gaffney's Creek Subdivision	6,600	0	0
	Wood's Point Subdivision	5,700	0	0
	Big River Subdivision	3,800	0	0
	Mitta Mitta Division	20,000	0	0
	Jamieson Subdivision	44,000	0	0
	Total	280,900	0	0
SANDHURST	Sandhurst Division	2,560,000	0	0
	Kilmore Division	...		
	Heathcote Division and Waranga South Subdivision	15,430	0	0
	Waranga North Subdivision	12,000	0	0
	Total	2,587,430	0	0
MARYBOROUGH	Maryborough Division	140,000	0	0
	Majorca Subdivision	10,600	0	0
	Amherst Division	14,400	0	0
	Avoca Subdivision	2,750	0	0
	Dunolly and Tarnagulla Divisions	45,000	0	0
	Inglewood and Wedderburn Divisions	34,000	0	0
	Redbank and St. Arnaud South Subdivision	5,600	0	0
	St. Arnaud North Subdivision	23,000	0	0
	Total	275,350	0	0
CASTLEMAINE	Castlemaine Division	37,440	0	0
	Fryer's Creek Division	57,260	0	0
	Hepburn Division	182,070	0	0
	Taradale and Kyneton Subdivision	49,465	0	0
	Tarrangower Division	27,900	0	0
	St. Andrew's Division	15,000	0	0
	Blue Mountain North Subdivision	500	0	0
	Total	369,635	0	0

No. 40.—Estimated Value of Mining Claims, &c.—*continued.*

Mining Districts.	Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	Estimated Value.
		£ s. d.
Ararat	Ararat Division	40,000 0 0
	Pleasant Creek Division	1,185,270 0 0
	Barkly Division	...
	Raglan Division	6,000 0 0
	Total	1,231,270 0 0
Gippsland	Omeo Subdivision	4,505 0 0
	Mitchell River and Boggy Creek Subdivisions	2,000 0 0
	Crooked River Division	3,755 0 0
	Jericho Division	4,000 0 0
	Donnelly's Creek Division	3,600 0 0
	Stringer's Creek Division	475,400 0 0
	Aberfeldy Subdivision	7,500 0 0
	Russell's Creek Subdivision	500 0 0
	Bendoc Subdivision	1,700 0 0
	Tarwin Subdivision	3,015 0 0
	Traralgon Subdivision	60 0 0
	Total	506,035 0 0

No. 41.

SUMMARY.

Length of Water Races and their Approximate Cost, in the several Mining Districts, on the 31st December 1876.

Mining Districts.	Length of Races.	Approximate Cost.
	miles chains.	£ s. d.
Ballarat District	260 14	67,957 0 0
Beechworth District	978 20	177,802 0 0
Sandhurst District	40 0	2,800 0 0
Maryborough District	105 0	3,663 0 0
Castlemaine District	222 12	17,342 0 0
Ararat District	113 0	7,260 0 0
Gippsland District	163 78	14,385 0 0
Totals	1,882 44	291,209 0 0

No. 42.

Table showing the Length of Water Races and their Approximate Cost, in the several Divisions and Subdivisions of each Mining District, on the 31st December 1876.

Mining Districts.	Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	Length of Races.	Approximate Cost.	Remarks.
		miles chains.	£ s. d.	
Ballarat ...	Central Division	51 0	1,380 0 0	
	Southern Division	5 25	233 0 0	
	Buninyong Division	2 0	60 0 0	
	Smythesdale Division	31 51	427 0 0	About 10¼ miles of races abandoned.
	Creswick Division	117 18	13,857 0 0	
	Gordon Subdivision	...	...	
	Steiglitz Subdivision	...	...	The Lal Lal and Albion races, about 76 miles in length, have been abandoned.
	Blackwood Division and Blue Mountain South Subdivision	53 0	52,000 0 0	3 miles 76 chains 14 links of new water races have been constructed.
	Ballan Subdivision	...	...	
	Totals	260 14	67,957 0 0	
Beechworth ...	Beechworth Division	485 0	132,000 0 0	
	Yackandandah Division	250 0	15,000 0 0	
	Indigo Division	...	...	
	Buckland Division	68 60	5,437 0 0	This estimate includes only the races in use.
	Alexandra Subdivision	16 40	1,150 0 0	
	Dry Creek Subdivision	23 0	690 0 0	
	Benalla Subdivision	...	...	
	Gaffney's Creek Subdivision ...	33 20	6,650 0 0	Inclusive of races not in use.
	Wood's Point Subdivision ...	27 20	6,175 0 0	Inclusive of races not in use.
	Big River Subdivision	27 40	5,100 0 0	Inclusive of races not in use.
	Mitta Mitta Division	24 0	2,400 0 0	
	Jamieson Subdivision	23 0	3,200 0 0	
	Totals	978 20	177,802 0 0	

No. 42.—Table showing the Length of Water Races, &c.—*continued.*

Mining Districts.	Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions.	Length of Races.	Approximate Cost.	Remarks.
		miles chains.	£ s. d.	
Sandhurst ...	Sandhurst Division	40 0	2,800 0 0	
	Kilmore Division	...	...	
	Heathcote Division and Waranga South Subdivision	...	...	
	Waranga North Subdivision	...	...	
	Totals	40 0	2,800 0 0	
Maryborough ...	Maryborough Division	1 0	30 0 0	
	Majorca Subdivision	...	...	
	Amherst Division	96 0	3,500 0 0	
	Avoca Subdivision	2 62	111 0 0	
	Dunolly and Tarnagulla Divisions	5 35	22 0 0	
	Inglewood and Wedderburn Divisions ...	...	...	
	Redbank and St. Arnaud South Subdivisions	...	...	
	St. Arnaud North Subdivision	...	...	
	Totals	105 17	3,663 0 0	
Castlemaine ...	Castlemaine Division	...	...	
	Fryer's Creek Division	32 60	6,580 0 0	
	Hepburn Division	160 0	8,000 0 0	
	Taradale and Kyneton Subdivisions ...	2 0	42 0 0	
	Tarrangower Division	...	...	
	St. Andrew's Division	24 0	2,600 0 0	
	Blue Mountain North Subdivision	3 32	120 0 0	
	Totals	222 12	17,342 0 0	
Ararat	Ararat Division	25 0	740 0 0	The water-races are chiefly used for supplying the town of Beaufort for domestic uses, &c. In winter, when the supply of water is plentiful, the privilege of using the surplus for mining purposes is bought from the shire council, who control the races.
	Pleasant Creek Division	33 0	2,060 0 0	
	Barkly Division	...	...	
	Raglan Division	55 0	4,460 0 0	
	Totals	113 0	7,260 0 0	
Gippsland. ...	Omeo Subdivision	73 0	5,480 0 0	
	Mitchell River and Boggy Creek Subdivisions	6 0	300 0 0	Inclusive of races not in use.
	Crooked River Division	34 0	680 0 0	
	Jericho Division	10 0	400 0 0	
	Donnelly's Creek Division	3 40	350 0 0	
	Stringer's Creek Division	2 23	775 0 0	
	Aberfeldy Subdivision	10 0	2,000 0 0	
	Russell's Creek Subdivision	15 0	1,050 0 0	
	Bendoc Subdivision	3 0	350 0 0	
	Tarwin Subdivision	7 15	3,000 0 0	
	Traralgon Subdivision	...	...	
	Totals	163 78	14,385 0 0	

No. 43.

Return of the Number of Water-right Licenses in force on the 31st December 1876.

Number.	Area of Races.	Length of Races.	Maximum Quantity of Water to be diverted per diem.	Area of Reservoirs.	Capacity of Reservoirs.	Annual Rent.
	A. R. P.	miles chains.	gallons.	A. R. P.	gallons.	£ s. d.
167	1,220 1 23	421 $39\frac{65}{100}$	208,342,655	97 3 37	97,795,569	910 15 0

No. 44.

The Number of Water-right Licenses for Gold-Mining purposes issued during the Year 1876 is as follows :—

Number.	Area of Races.	Length of Races.	Maximum Quantity of Water to be diverted per diem.	Area of Reservoirs.	Capacity of Reservoirs.	Annual Rent.
	A. R. P.	miles chains.	gallons.	A. R. P.	gallons.	£ s. d.
3	20 0 17	4 $52\frac{5}{100}$	13,004,000	1 3 13	2,380,000	20 0 0

No. 45.

SUMMARY.

RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, and BALANCES in hand during the Year 1876 of Sums lodged with the Wardens' Clerks of the several Mining Districts as Deposits under the Gold and Mineral Lease and Water-right License Regulations.

Mining Districts.	Balances on hand on the 31st December 1875.	Total Deposits received during 1876.	Total Disbursements made during 1876.	Balances on hand on 31st December 1876.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ballarat	131 17 1	258 11 0	243 17 10	146 10 3
Beechworth	321 7 11	554 19 0	480 15 2	395 11 9
Sandhurst	278 8 7	1,259 1 7	935 1 8	602 8 6
Maryborough	108 11 7	375 17 7	279 2 9	205 6 5
Castlemaine	328 2 6	473 18 0	656 19 9	145 0 9
Ararat	103 17 3	186 10 3	201 1 11	89 5 7
Gippsland	308 8 3	228 10 0	383 16 4	148 1 11
Totals	1,580 13 2	3,337 7 5	3,185 15 5	1,732 5 2

NOTE.—The balances brought forward from last year's returns differ in two instances.

No. 46.

RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, and BALANCES in hand during the Year 1876 of Sums lodged with the Wardens' Clerks of the several DIVISIONS of the Mining Districts as Deposits under the Gold and Mineral Lease and Water-right License Regulations.

Mining Districts.	Divisions.	Balances on hand 31st December 1875.	Total Deposits received during 1876.	Total Disbursements made during 1876.	Balances on hand 31st December 1876.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
BALLARAT ...	Ballarat	12 0 0	88 8 0	51 4 0	49 4 0
	Buninyong	...	...	...	...
	Smythesdale	54 11 5	26 0 0	63 3 0	17 8 5
	Creswick	32 19 8	21 14 0	42 3 6	12 10 2
	Gordon	18 2 4	45 7 0	29 8 10	34 0 6
	Steiglitz	1 8 8	7 0 0	8 8 8	...
	Blackwood	3 19 0	70 2 0	40 13 10	33 7 2
	Clunes	8 16 0	...	8 16 0	...
	Totals	131 17 1	258 11 0	243 17 10	146 10 3
BEECHWORTH ...	Beechworth	96 17 0	130 0 0	101 17 0	125 0 0
	Yackandandah	10 0 0	45 0 0	50 0 0	5 0 0
	Chiltern	6 0 10	11 19 0	6 0 10	11 19 0
	Morse's Creek	42 7 6	67 10 0	74 14 5	35 3 1
	Jamieson	31 19 6	43 0 0	35 12 6	39 7 0
	Wood's Point	59 1 3	105 15 0	99 14 1	65 2 2
	Wodonga	...	54 0 0	...	54 0 0
	Benalla	...	...	...	...
	Alexandra	75 1 10	83 11 0	112 16 4	45 16 6
	Mansfield	...	...	...	...
	Eldorado	...	14 4 0	...	14 4 0
	Totals	321 7 11	554 19 0	480 15 2	395 11 9
SANDHURST ...	Sandhurst	191 18 4	854 6 0	643 15 6	402 8 10
	Kilmore	...	49 0 0	13 1 9	35 18 3
	Heathcote	62 1 11	121 8 0	109 11 3	73 18 8
	Waranga	10 18 9	15 9 0	19 12 6	6 15 3
	Graytown	...	...	...	...
	Eaglehawk	13 9 7	218 18 7	149 0 8	83 7 6
	Totals	278 8 7	1,259 1 7	935 1 8	602 8 6
MARYBOROUGH ...	Maryborough	12 15 5	46 2 0	47 3 10	11 13 7
	Majorca	...	8 15 0	8 15 0	...
	Talbot	4 9 7	94 17 7	60 8 7	38 18 7
	Carisbrook	...	...	...	...
	Avoca	20 7 0	72 0 0	71 9 0	20 18 0
	Dunolly	11 18 4	28 5 0	27 14 1	12 9 3
	Tarnagulla	19 5 0	7 0 0	22 12 6	3 12 6
	Korong	...	...	...	...
	Inglewood	32 0 3	106 15 0	21 0 9	117 14 6
	St. Arnaud	7 16 0	12 3 0	19 19 0	...
	Totals	108 11 7	375 17 7	279 2 9	205 6 5

No. 46.—RECEIPTS, Disbursements, and Balances in hand during the Year 1876 of Sums lodged with the Wardens' Clerks, &c.—*continued.*

Mining Districts.	Divisions.	Balances on hand 31st December 1875.	Total Deposits received during 1876.	Total Disbursements made during 1876.	Balances on hand 31st December 1876.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
CASTLEMAINE ...	Castlemaine	31 5 9	79 16 0	83 9 9	27 12 0
	Fryerstown...	3 17 4	...	3 17 4	...
	Daylesford	50 15 2	43 0 0	65 11 2	28 4 0
	Taradale	35 0 0	24 13 0	59 13 0	...
	Maldon	40 5 0	25 11 0	60 16 0	5 0 0
	Anderson's Creek	156 15 3	280 0 0	356 17 6	79 17 9
	Trentham	10 4 0	20 18 0	26 15 0	4 7 0
	Kyneton	...	...	...	...
	Totals	328 2 6	473 18 0	656 19 9	145 0 9
ARARAT	Ararat	2 4 0	72 10 0	45 1 11	29 12 1
	Beaufort	65 2 6	6 0 0	71 2 6	...
	Stawell	36 10 9	108 0 3	84 17 6	59 13 6
	Landsborough	...	...	...	...
	Totals	103 17 3	186 10 3	201 1 11	89 5 7
GIPPSLAND	Omeo	...	13 0 0	...	13 0 0
	Grant	...	...	...	...
	Bairnsdale	52 16 8	28 0 0	65 3 4	15 13 4
	Sale	...	...	...	...
	Stringer's Creek	186 10 8	175 10 0	249 17 1	112 3 7
	Corner Inlet and Foster ...	27 0 7	...	27 0 7	...
	Jericho	42 0 4	12 0 0	46 15 4	7 5 0
	Totals	308 8 3	228 10 0	388 16 4	148 1 11

No. 47.

RETURN of the QUANTITIES of GUNPOWDER Issued, &c., on the several Goldfields during the Year 1876.

Mining Districts.	Quantity in Stock at the commencement of the Year.	Quantity Issued during the Year.	Quantity in Stock at the end of the Year.
	tons cwt. qrs. lbs.	tons cwt. qrs. lbs.	tons cwt. qrs. lbs.
Ballarat District	4 16 2 17	41 17 1 3	11 4 0 12
Beechworth District	2 15 1 12	10 2 3 17	3 17 2 20
Sandhurst District	22 3 3 0	154 15 3 1	31 7 1 23
Maryborough District	2 2 0 24	6 0 2 9	1 11 2 20
Castlemaine District	3 1 0 8	24 3 1 17	4 9 2 26
Ararat District	6 18 2 23	50 9 2 1	9 4 2 12
Gippsland District	0 18 3 25	9 0 3 6	2 12 2 20
Totals	42 16 2 25	296 10 0 26	64 7 3 21

No. 48.

SUMMARY.

MINING COMPANIES REGISTERED in the Office of the Registrar-General during the Year 1876.

Mining Districts.	Number of Companies.	Number of Shares.	Nominal Capital.
			£ s. d.
Ballarat District	22	151,800	245,740 0 0
Beechworth District	8	170,000	75,500 0 0
Sandhurst District	33	808,000	666,800 0 0
Maryborough District	7	81,700	65,700 0 0
Castlemaine District	21	294,010	224,880 0 0
Ararat District	2	19,323	59,076 0 0
Gippsland District	1	24,000	12,000 0 0
Totals	94	1,548,833	1,349,696 0 0

NOTE.—For information relative to companies registered and companies wound-up previous to 1st January 1876, *see* Tables Nos. 48 and 49, *Mineral Statistics* 1875.

Eight companies were wound-up during the year, of which the aggregate nominal number of shares was 214,000, and the aggregate nominal capital £111,000.

No. 49.

MINING COMPANIES REGISTERED in the Office of the Registrar-General during the Year 1876.

Mining Districts.	Divisions and Subdivisions.	Number of Companies.	Number of Shares.	Nominal Capital.	Remarks.
				£ s. d.	
BALLARAT ...	Central Division	5	28,200	16,390 0 0	
	Southern Division	...	...	...	
	Buninyong Division	...	...	...	
	Smythesdale Division	2	2,200	8,000 0 0	
	Creswick Division	7	44,600	146,750 0 0	
	Gordon Subdivision	3	22,400	32,600 0 0	
	Steiglitz Subdivision	3	23,400	9,000 0 0	
	Blackwood Division and Blue Mountain South Subdivision	2	31,000	33,000 0 0	
	Ballan Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Totals	22	151,800	245,740 0 0	
BEECHWORTH ...	Beechworth Division	2	31,000	27,500 0 0	
	Yackandandah Division	...	...	...	
	Indigo Division	1	20,000	20,000 0 0	
	Buckland Division	...	...	...	
	Alexandra Subdivision	2	25,000	7,500 0 0	
	Dry Creek Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Benalla Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Gaffney's Creek Subdivision ...	...	...	...	
	Wood's Point Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Big River Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Mitta-mitta Division	1	24,000	3,000 0 0	
	Jamieson Subdivision	2	70,000	17,500 0 0	
	Totals	8	170,000	75,500 0 0	
SANDHURST ...	Sandhurst Division	33	808,000	666,800 0 0	
	Kilmore Division	...	...	...	
	Heathcote Division and Waranga South Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Waranga North Subdivision ...	...	...	...	
	Totals	33	808,000	666,800 0 0	
MARYBOROUGH ...	Maryborough Division	3	19,000	13,000 0 0	
	Majorca Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Amherst Division	...	...	...	
	Avoca Subdivision	2	12,700	12,700 0 0	
	Dunolly and Tarnagulla Divisions ...	...	...	...	
	Inglewood and Wedderburn Divisions	...	...	...	
	Redbank and St. Arnaud Subdivisions	...	...	...	
	St. Arnaud North Subdivision ...	2	50,000	40,000 0 0	
	Totals	7	81,700	65,700 0 0	
CASTLEMAINE ...	Castlemaine Division	2	30,000	18,000 0 0	
	Fryer's Creek Division	...	...	...	
	Hepburn Division	4	19,160	12,080 0 0	
	Taradale and Kyneton Subdivision ...	2	32,500	17,500 0 0	
	Tarrangower Division	3	72,000	36,000 0 0	
	St. Andrew's Division	10	140,350	141,300 0 0	
	Blue Mountain North Subdivision ...	...	...	...	
	Totals	21	294,010	224,880 0 0	
ARARAT	Ararat Division	1	123	1,476 0 0	
	Pleasant Creek Division	1	19,200	57,600 0 0	
	Barkly Division	...	...	...	
	Raglan Division	...	...	...	
	Totals	2	19,323	59,076 0 0	
GIPPSLAND ...	Omeo Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Mitchell River and Boggy Creek Subdivisions	...	...	...	
	Crooked River Division	...	...	...	
	Jericho Division	...	...	...	
	Donnelly's Creek Division	...	...	...	
	Stringer's Creek Division	1	24,000	12,000 0 0	
	Russell's Creek Subdivision ...	...	...	...	
	Bendoc Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Tarwin Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Traralgon Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Aberfeldy Subdivision	...	...	...	
	Totals	1	24,000	12,000 0 0	

No. 50.

RETURN of MINERS' RIGHTS and BUSINESS LICENSES issued in Victoria during the Year 1876.

Place or District where issued.	Miners' Rights.										Business Licenses.				Total Receipts.
	1 Year at 5s.	2 Years at 10s.	3 Years at 15s.	4 Years at 20s.	5 Years at 25s.	11 Years at 55s.	Consolidated Miners' Rights. Number.	Consolidated Miners' Rights. Representing Single Rights at 5s.	Miners' Rights ante-dated. Fee 5s.	Amount received.	6 Months at 50s.	12 Months at 100s.	Transfers at 10s.	Amount received.	
										£ s. d.				£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Mining District of Ballarat	6,092	...	...	...	...	...	35	566	3	1,665 5 0	28	...	...	70 0 0	1,735 5 0
Mining District of Beechworth	3,995	...	...	2	...	...	10	48	3	1,013 10 0	127	2	1	328 0 0	1,341 10 0
Mining District of Sandhurst	2,476	5	...	8	1	...	3	8	...	632 15 0	24	...	...	60 0 0	692 15 0
Mining District of Maryborough	3,192	...	...	...	...	...	1	18	...	802 10 0	98	...	...	245 0 0	1,047 10 0
Mining District of Castlemaine	2,387	2	...	1	...	...	4	28	...	605 15 0	25	...	...	62 10 0	668 5 0
Mining District of Ararat	1,587	4	1	9	1	...	7	91	7	434 5 0	7	...	...	17 10 0	451 15 0
Mining District of Gippsland	1,067	...	...	1	2	...	2	7	...	272 0 0	24	...	...	60 0 0	332 0 0
Melbourne	179	...	...	...	...	1	3	14	1*	52 0 0	9	...	...	22 10 0	74 10 0
Totals	20,975	11	1	21	4	1	65	780	14†	5,478 0 0	342	2	1	865 10 0	6,343 10 0

NOTE.—The figures in this Table do not necessarily agree with those in Table No. 51. * At 20s. † Including one at 20s.

No. 51.

STATEMENT of the REVENUE directly derived from the Goldfields during the Year 1876, compiled from the Treasury Statements of Revenue, &c.

	£ s. d.
Amount received for Miners' Rights	5,718 6 11
Amount received for Business Licenses	940 10 0
Amount received for Leases of Auriferous and Mineral Lands	9,722 0 2
Amount received for Water-right and Searching Licenses	835 5 0
Total	£17,216 2 1

NOTE.—Moneys received from holders of and applicants for Mining Leases under the heads of fees, fines, and forfeitures, are not included in this return.

No. 52.

TABLE showing the WAGES paid per Week for different kinds of LABOR in the several DIVISIONS and SUBDIVISIONS of each Mining District during the Year 1876, from Returns made by the Mining Surveyors and Registrars.

Mining Districts.	Mining Surveyors and Registrars' Divisions and Subdivisions	General Manager.	Legal Manager.	Mining Manager.	Engineer.	Engine-driver.	Pitman.	Blacksmith.	Carpenter.	Foreman of Shift.	Miner.	Surface Man (Laborer).	Boy.	Chinese.
BALLARAT.	Central Division	£5	£2 to £3	£3 to £5	£4	£2 2s.	£2 10s.	£2 10s.	£2 10s.	£2 5s.	£1 18s.	£1 15s.	15s.	£1 5s.
	Southern Division	..	£1 to £2	£4	..	£2 2s. to £2 10s.	..	£2 10s.	£2 8s.	£2 8s.	£2 2s.	£2 2s.	£1 2s. 6d. to £1 10s	..
	Buninyong Division	£3	£1 10s.	£3	..	£2 5s.	£2 2s. 6d.	£2 5s.	£3	£2 5s.	£2	£1 10s.	£1 5s.	£1 7s. 6d.
	Smythesdale Division	£4 to £6	£1 to £5	£4 to £5	£3 to £3 10s.	£2 2s. to £2 8s.	£2 8s. to £2 10s.	£2 10s. to £3	£2 5s. to £3	£2 5s. to £2 10s.	£2 2s.	£2 2s.	£1 to £1 10s.	£1 5s. to £1 10s.
	Creswick Division	£4 to £7	£1 to £5	£4 to £6	£2 10s. to £3 18s.	£2 2s. to £2 10s.	£2 5s. to £3 10s.	£2 10s. to £3	£2 10s. to £3	£2 7s. 6d., £2 10s.	£2 2s. to £2 8s.	£2 to £2 10s.	£1 to £1 10s.	£1 7s.
	Gordon Subdivision	..	£2 to £4	£3 to £4	£2 10s. to £4	£2 2s. to £2 9s.	£3	£2 2s. to £2 10s.	£2 2s. to £3	£2 5s.	£2 2s. to £2 5s.	£1 16s. to £2	£1 to £1 10s.	..
	Steiglitz Subdivision	..	£1	£3 10s.	..	£2 7s. 6d.	£2 5s.	..	..	..	£2 5s.	£2 5s.	£1 7s. 6d.	..
	Blackwood Division and Blue Mountain South Subdivision	£2 to £4	£1 to £3	£2 10s. to £4 10s.	£3 to £4	£2 to £2 5s.	£2 5s.	£2 10s. to £3	£2 2s. to £3	£2 5s. to £2 10s.	£2 2s. to £2 10s.	£1 16s. to £2 2s.	£1 to £1 10s.	£1 to £1 10s.
	Ballan Subdivision	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
BEECHWORTH.	Beechworth Division	..	£1 to £2	£4 to £6	..	£2 5s., £2 12s. 6d	£3	£2 10s. to £3	£3	£2 15s.	£2 2s. to £2 10s.	£2 5s.	£1 10s.	£1 10s. to £1 16s.
	Yackandandah Division	£5	..	£3 10s.	£4 10s.	£3	£2 10s.	£3 10s.	£3 12s.	£3	£2 10s.	£2 2s.	£1 10s.	£1 15s.
	Indigo Division	£7	..	£4 to £7	£4 to £5	£2 16s. to £3	£2 10s. to £2 15s.	£2 10s. to £3	£2 10s. to £2 15s.	£2 15s. to £3	£2 10s. to £3	£2 to £2 10s.	£1 to £1 10s.	£1 10s. to £1 15s.
	Buckland Division	..	..	£3 to £4	£3 to £4	£3 5s.	..	..	£3 12s.	£3 10s.	£2 10s. to £3	..	..	£1 16s.
	Alexandra Subdivision	..	10s. to £1 10s.	£3 to £5	£2 10s. to £3 10s.	£2 10s. to £3	..	£2 10s. to £3	..	£2 10s. to £3	£2 to £2 10s.	£2 to £2 10s.	15s. to £1 10s.	..
	Dry Creek Subdivision	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Benalla Subdivision	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Gaffney's Creek Subdivision	£5 to £5 10s.	10s. to £1 10s.	£3 10s. to £4	£3 10s. to £4	£3 to £3 10s.	£2 10s.	£3 to £3 10s.	£3 to £3 10s.	£2 15s.	£2 10s.	£2 10s.	£1 5s. to £1 10s.	..
	Wood's Point Subdivision	£4 to £5	10s. to £1	£3 10s. to £4	£3 10s. to £4	£3	£2 10s.	£3 to £3 10s.	£3 to £3 10s.	£2 15s.	£2 10s.	£2 10s.	£1 10s.	..
	Big River Subdivision	£5	£1	£3 10s.	£4	£3	£2 10s.	£3 to £3 10s.	£3 to £3 10s.	£2 15s.	£2 10s.	£2 10s.	£1 10s.	..
	Mitta Mitta Division	£4	£4	£3	£3	£2 15s.	£2 15s.	£3	£3	£2 15s.	£2 5s.	£2 5s.	£1 10s.	..
	Jamieson Subdivision	..	15s.	£5	£4	£3	..	£3	..	£3 10s.	£2 10s.	£2 10s.	..	..
SANDHURST.	Sandhurst Division	£4 to £8	10s. to £2 10s.	£2 15s. to £4	£4 to £5	£2 8s. to £3	£2 10s.	£3 to £3 10s.	£3 to £3 12s.	£2 10s. to £3	£2 5s.	£2	15s. to £1 15s.	£1 10s.
	Kilmore Division	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Heathcote Division and Waranga South Subdivision	..	£2	£4 to £6	£3 to £4	£2 10s. to £2 15s.	£2 5s. to £3	£2 10s. to £3	£2 10s. to £3	£2 10s. to £3	£2 5s. to £2 10s.	£2 5s.	15s. to £1	£1 10s.
	Waranga North Subdivision	..	..	..	..	£3	..	..	..	..	£2 5s.	£2 10s.	..	..
MARYBOROUGH.	Maryborough Division	..	£1 to £1 10s.	£4 to £5	£3 10s. to £4	£2 10s. to £2 15s.	£2 10s. to £4	£2 15s. to £3	£2 14s. to £3	£2 10s. to £2 15s.	£2 5s.	£2 to £2 5s.	£1 10s. to £2	£1 10s.
	Majorca Subdivision	..	£1 5s.	£3	£3	£2 10s.	£2 10s.	£2 10s.	£2 10s.	£2 10s.	£2 5s.	£2	£1 10s.	..
	Amherst Division	..	12s. 6d. to £1 5s.	..	£3	..	..	..	..	..	£2 5s.	..	£1 15s.	..
	Avoca Subdivision	..	..	£3 to £3 10s.	..	£2 10s. to £3	..	£2 10s.	..	..	£2 5s.	£2 to £2 5s.	15s.	..
	Dunolly and Tarnagulla Divisions	..	£1 to £2	£3 10s. to £4	£4	£2 15s.	£3	£3	£3	..	£2 5s.	£2	£1 15s.	..
	Inglewood & Wedderburn Divisions	..	£1 5s. to £3	£4 10s. to £5	£2 10s. to £3 10s.	£2 5s. to £2 10s.	..	£3	£2 14s.	£2 10s.	£2 5s.	£2 5s.	£1 10s.	£1 10s.
	Redbank and St. Arnaud South Subdivisions	..	£1	£4	£4	£2 15s.	£2 15s.	£3	£3	..	£2 10s.	£2	£1 10s.	..
	St. Arnaud North Subdivision	£5	£1 10s. to £2	£5	£3	£2 15s.	£2 15s. to £3	£3	£3	£3	£2 10s.	£2	£1 5s. to £1 10s.	£1 10s.
CASTLEMAINE.	Castlemaine Division	..	£1 to £1 5s.	£2 10s. to £3 10s.	£3 to £3 15s.	£2 to £2 12s.	£2 to £2 5s.	£2 2s. to £2 14s.	£2 12s. to £3	£2 2s. to £2 10s.	£1 10s. to £2 2s.	£1 5s. to £2	12s. to £1 5s.	12s. to 15s.
	Fryer's Creek Division	..	£1 10s.	£3 to £4	£4	£2 10s.	..	£2 5s.	..	..	£2 to £2 2s.	£2	£1 to £1 16s.	..
	Hepburn Division	..	£3	£5 to £5 10s.	£3	£2 5s.	£2 10s.	£2 10s.	£2 to £2 10s.	£2 10s.	£2 5s.	£1 10s. to £1 15s.	£1 to £1 5s.	..
	Taradale and Kyneton Subdivision	..	£1 to £5	£3 10s. to £4	..	£2 5s.	£2 2s.	£2 5s. to £2 10s.	£2 5s. to £2 10s.	£2 2s 6d. to £2 5s.	£2 2s. to £2 2s. 6d.	£2 2s.	£1 10s.	15s.
	Tarrangower Division	..	£1 10s. to £3	£2 10s.	£3 10s.	£2 5s.	£3	£3	£3	£2 10s.	£2 5s.	£2	10s. to £1 4s.	..
	St. Andrew's Division	£3	£2	£3	..	£3	£2	£2 10s.	£2 2s.	£2 5s.	£2 10s.	£1 10s.	£1	..
	Blue Mountain North Subdivision	£3 10s.	..	£3 10s.	£3 10s.	£2 10s.	£2 8s.	£2 10s.	£2 10s.	£2 10s.	£2 5s.	£2 2s.	£1	..
ARARAT.	Ararat Division	..	£1 10s.	£3 10s.	£3	£2 15s.	£2 5s. to £2 10s.	£2 10s.	£2 10s.	£2 15s.	£2 5s. to £2 10s.	£2 2s.	£1 5s.	£1 5s. to £1 10s.
	Pleasant Creek Division	..	£2 to £5	£4 to £6	£4 to £6	£3	£2 8s. to £2 15s.	£3 to £3 15s.	£3 12s.	£2 15s. to £3	£2 8s.	£2 5s. to £2 8s.	£1 to £1 10s.	..
	Barkly Division	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Raglan Division	..	£4 10s.	..	..	£2 5s.	..	£2 14s.	£2 5s.	..	£2 5s.	£2 5s.	..	..
GIPPSLAND.	Omeo Subdivision	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Mitchell River and Boggy Creek Subdivisions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Crooked River Division	£3 to £6	£2	£3	£3	£3	£2 15s.	£2 15s.	£2 15s.	£2 15s.	£2 15s. to £3	£2 15s.	..	..
	Jericho Division	£5 to £6	..	£4 to £5	..	..	..	£3 to £4	..	..	£2 10s. to £3	£2 10s.	£1 10s. to £2	£2 to £2 10s.
	Donnelly's Creek Division	..	£1 10s.	£4	£4	£3 5s.	..	£3 10s.	£3	£3	£2 10s.	£2	..	..
	Stringer's Creek Division	£10 to £12	£1 to £2 10s.	£4 to £6	£4 10s. to £5	£3 to £3 5s.	£3 to £4	£3 10s. to £4 10s.	£4	£3 10s.	£3	£2 10s. to £3	15s. to £2 5s.	..
	Aberfeldy Subdivision	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Russell's Creek Subdivision	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Bendoc Subdivision	£7	..	£4	..	£2 10s.	..	£3	£3	..	£2 10s. to £3	£2	..	..
	Tarwin Subdivision	£3	10s. to £4	£3 to £4	£3 to £4	£2 10s.	£2 to £2 10s.	£3	£3 to £4	£3	£2 to £2 10s.	£2	15s. to £1 10s.	..
	Traralgon Subdivision	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

No. 53.

THE PRICES of MINING MATERIALS in some of the more important MINING CENTRES are as follow :—

BALLARAT.—Castings : Iron puddling machines, 20s. per cwt. ; lift pumps, 16 in. to 22 in., including workings and connections, 26s. per cwt. ; winding and pumping gear, 35s. per cwt. ; water-pipe, 17s. per cwt. ; stamping batteries, with iron frames and fittings connected with 10 stamps, say 10 cwt. per stamp or hammer, according to construction or design, 40 in., iron with wood framing, £40 per head. Gas-pipe, ¾ in. to 2 in., 4d. to 1s. 3d. per foot. Iron rivets, 42s. to 56s. per cwt. Chains, tested, round, sizes $\frac{5}{16}$ in. to 1 in., imported, 37s. to 56s. per cwt.; ditto, made at Ballarat, 50s. per cwt. Rope : Flat wire, 3 in. to 4 in. x $\frac{5}{8}$ in., 65s. to 75s. per cwt.; flat hemp, 4½ in. to 6 in., 80s. per cwt.; flat Manilla, 76s. to 80s. per cwt. ; round Manilla, 67s. per cwt., different sizes. Powder, glazed blasting, 9d. per lb. Fuze : Single tape, 11s. per dozen coils ; double tape, 12s. 6d. per dozen coils. Candles, sperm, 13s. per dozen lbs. Oil : Olive, 6s. 6d. per gallon ; colza, 6s. per gallon ; castor, 5s. 6d. per gallon ; kerosene, 4s. per gallon. Tallow, beef and mutton, 42s. per cwt. Quicksilver, 3s. per lb. Picks : Single-ended, driving and sinking, 42s. to 60s. per dozen ; double-ended, 90s. per dozen. Pick-hilts : Hickory, 15s. per dozen ; colonial lightwood, 8s. to 12s. per dozen. Shovels : Long or D-handled, 72s. per dozen ; Cornish, socket-handled, 52s. to 56s. per dozen. Shovel-handles : English, 18s. per dozen ; colonial, 14s. per dozen. White yarn : Flax packing, 1s. 6d. per lb. ; hemp packing, 6d. per lb. Iron : Common, 16s. per cwt. ; best Low Moor, 40s. per cwt. Leather : Colonial, for pumps, 2s. per lb. ; English, 3s. 6d. per lb. ; belt leather, colonial, 2s. 3d. per lb. Guttapercha, sheet, for pump-clacks, 5s. per lb. ; tubing, 9s. per lb. Steel : Cast, 70s. per cwt. ; blister, 56s. per cwt. ; shear, 65s. per cwt. ; spring, 37s. per. cwt. ; Stubbs' No. 2, 112s. per cwt.

CRESWICK.—Castings : Stamp-head and beds, 16s. to 19s. per cwt.; wheels, &c., 22s. per cwt. Hemp rope, 3 in. to 8 in., 54s. to 70s. per cwt. Blasting powder, 7d. to 9d. per lb. Fuze, 11s. to 12s. per dozen coils. Candles, 9s. 6d. to 12s. per dozen lbs. Oil : Colza, 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. per gall. ; machine, 6s. 6d. per gall. Tallow, 35s. to 37s. 6d. per cwt. Quicksilver, 2s. 8s. to 4s. 2d. per lb. Picks, 48s. to 78s. per dozen. Pick-handles, 6s. to 13s. per dozen. Shovels, long-handled, 60s. to 72s. per dozen. Leather, English, for pumps, 2s. 6d. to 4s. per lb. Cotton waste, 7½d. to 8d. per lb. Iron : Common, 16s. per cwt ; sheet iron, 23s. per cwt. Steel : Cast, 56s. per cwt. ; blister, 49s. to 58s. per cwt. Sheet indiarubber, 3s. 6d. to 4s. per lb.

BRIGHT.—Castings, plain, 40s. per cwt. Hemp rope, 70s. per cwt. ; wire rope, 80s. per cwt. Chains, small and medium, 7d. per lb. Blasting powder, 10d. per lb. Lithofracteur (ten cases in one box), £9 10s. per box. Indiarubber, double tape fuze, 14s. per dozen coils. Best sperm candles, 12s. per dozen lbs. Oil : Colza, 8s. per gall. ; Chinese, 8s. per gall. ; kerosene, 3s. 6d. per gall. ; olive, 9s. per gall. Quicksilver, 3s. 2d. per lb. Collins' double picks, 70s. per dozen. Pick-handles, 18s. per dozen. Best long-handled shovels, 90s. per dozen ; best short-handled shovels, 70s. per dozen. Leather, Colonial, 1s. 6d. to 2s. 3d. per lb. Common iron, 25s. per cwt. Steel : Octagon, 70s. per cwt.; blister, 65s. per cwt. [Carriage for heavy goods, as above, £6 per ton.] N.B.—Prices at Harrietville and Buckland are about 5 per cent. higher on most of above lines.

WOOD'S POINT.—Castings (shoes, heads, &c.), 42s. 6d. to 45s. per cwt.; of extra size or pattern, 110s. per cwt. Powder, glazed, 1s. per lb. Fuze, 18s. per dozen coils. Candles, 1s. to 1s. 3d. per lb., in quantity. Oil : Castor, 10s. per gall. ; olive, 10s. per gall. Quicksilver, 2s. 6d. per lb. Mining pick-heads, 18s. to 20s. per dozen. Shovels : Long-handled, 110s. to 120s. per dozen ; short-handled, 100s. per dozen. Leather, belting and grain, 1s. 6d. per lb. Vulcanized indiarubber belting, four-ply, 4s. per foot. Best wrought iron, 45s. per cwt. Steel : Cast or blister, 80s. to 90s. per cwt. Nuts, bolts, &c., 1s. per lb. Business is very restricted, but otherwise healthy.

SANDHURST.—Stamper-boxes, 20s. per cwt. Stamper-heads, 20s. per cwt. Stamper-shoes, 16s. per cwt. Discs, 45s. each. Cliff's or Watts' patent discs, 60s. to 70s. each. Belt pulleys, 25s. per cwt., not turned. Bar-iron, BBH, 15s. 6d. per cwt. (contract). Octagon steel, 48s. 6d. per cwt. (contract). Pump pipes, 18s. per cwt. ; supply pipes for batteries, 21s. per cwt. Cams, 1s. per lb. Quicksilver, 3s. to 3s. 3d. per lb. Sheet copper, 1s. 5d. per lb. Candles : English, 24s. 6d. for 25 lbs. ; Colonial, 9d. and 10d. per lb. ; tallow, 3½d. per lb. Powder : Hall's, 20s. per keg ; Curtis and Harvey's, 18s. per keg of 25 lbs. Gun cotton, 65s. per box. Lithofracteur, £6 10s. per box of 50 lbs. Engine-packing, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. per lb. Cotton waste, 7d. per lb. Bolts and nuts, 7d. per lb. Sheet indiarubber, 4s. 6d. per lb. Copper rivets, 2s. 6d. per lb. Nails, average, 5d. per lb. Punched grating, 1s. per square foot. Shovels : S.H., 81s. per dozen ; L.H., 81s. per dozen. Pick-handles, American, 15s. per dozen ; Colonial, 9s. per dozen. Oil : Neatsfoot, 5s. 6d. per gall. ; kerosene, 4s. per gall. ; castor, 5s. per gall. Fuze : Double, 10½d. to 11½d. per coil ; Manilla rope 8d. per lb.

MARYBOROUGH.—Whim and truck wheels, 20s. per cwt. ; chains, 42s. per cwt. Rope, Manilla, 66s. per cwt. Fuze, 13s. per dozen coils. Powder, blasting, 60s. per 100 lbs. Candles, 10d. per lb. Oil : Colza, 5s. 6d. per gall. ; castor, 5s. per gall. ; olive, 6s. per gall. ; kerosene, 3s. 10d. per gall. Quicksilver, 3s. to 6s. per lb. Iron, BBH, 18s. per cwt. Steel : Cast, 66s. per cwt ; blister, 55s. per cwt. ; shear, 55s. per cwt. Leather : English, belt, 3s. 6d. per lb. ; Colonial, belt, 2s. 6d. per lb. Tallow : Mutton, 42s. per cwt. ; beef, 40s. per cwt. Pick-handles, 7s. per dozen. Shovels, 56s. per dozen.

CASTLEMAINE.—Castings : Heavy, as stampers, &c., 20s. per cwt. ; wheels, gear, &c., 23s. per cwt. ; pipes, &c., 21s. per cwt. Iron, BBH, 17s. per cwt. Steel : Blister, 56s. per. cwt. ; cast, 65s. per cwt. Rope, Manilla, 74s. 6d. per cwt. Tallow, refined, 46s. per cwt. Candles, sperm, 11s. per dozen lbs. ; tallow, 5s. per dozen lbs. : Oil : Colza, 6s. 6d. per gall. ; olive, 7s. per gall. ; castor, 6s. per gall. Powder, Hall's blasting, 74s. per 100 lbs. Fuze, D.T., 12s. per dozen coils. Shovels, Day's, 60s. per dozen ; Ames', 72s. per dozen. Picks, light, 36s. per dozen ; heavy, 54s. per dozen. Pick-hilts, Colonial, 14s. per dozen. Leather : Colonial, 2s. 6d. per lb. ; English, 3s. 6d. per lb. Cotton waste, 7½d. per lb.

MALDON.—Castings, stamp-heads, 21s. per cwt. Rope, to 1 inch, 8d. to 10d. per lb. ; wire, 21s. to 25s. per cwt. Blasting powder, 9d. per lb. Fuze, 12s. 6d. per dozen coils. Candles : Sperm, 9½d. to 11½d. per lb. ; tallow, 5½d. to 6d. per lb. Oil : Colza, 5s. 6d. to 6s. per gall. ; kerosene, 4s. 6d. per gall. ; olive, 6s. 6d. to 7s. per gall. Cotton waste, 8d. per lb. Picks, 1s. per lb. Pick-handles, 1s. 3d. each ; Colonial 1s. each. Shovels : English, 5s. to 5s. 6d. each ; American, 6s. 6d. each. Leather : English and Colonial, 3s, 6d. per lb. Flax, 1s. to 1s. 9d. per lb. Spun yarn, 8d. per lb. Iron, wrought, 17s. per cwt. Bar steel, 54s. to 56s. per cwt. Quicksilver, 3s. 6d. per lb.

ARARAT.—Iron : Castings, 2d. to 3d. per lb. ; fire-bars, 22s. per cwt. ; truck-wheels, 28s. per cwt. Manilla rope, 7 inch, 68s. to 70s. per cwt. Blasting powder, 10d. per lb. Fuze, 14s. per dozen. Candles, stearine, 1s. per lb. Colza oil, 7s. per gall. Tallow, 30s. per cwt. Pick-handles, she-oak, 8s. per dozen. Short-handled shovels, 63s. to 69s. per dozen. Leather, English butts, 3s. 6d. per lb. Bar iron, BBH, 16s. per cwt. Steel, cast, 70s. per cwt. Hardwood, 3 in. x 2 in. measurement, 7s. per 100 feet. ; 6 in. x ½ in. measurement, 6s. per 100 feet.

STAWELL.—Lift pumps, 12 in. to 22 in., including working and connection, 34s. per cwt. Winding and pumping gear, 36s. per cwt. Water-pipes, 24s. per cwt. Stamping batteries and iron frames, with fitting connected to say 30 stamps of 7 cwt. 2 qrs., £45 to £65. Gas-pipes, ¾ in. to 2 in., 5d. to 1s. 4d. per foot. Iron rivets, 40s,. to 56s. per cwt. Manilla rope, round, 64s. per cwt. Blasting powder, Kames', 7½d. per lb. ; Curtis and Harvey's 7½d. per lb. Hall's, 8d. per lb. ; Victorian patent safety, 6½d. per lb. Dynamite, 4s. 6d. per lb. Lithofracteur, 3s. 9d. per lb. Gun cotton, 75s. per 500 charges. Candles : Kitchen's petroline, 10d. per lb. ; DRJ, 11d. per lb. ; Brandon's, 11d. per lb. Oil : Olive, bulk, 5s. 9d. per gall. ; drum, 6s. 3d. per gall. ; colza, 6s. per gall. ; castor, 5s. 6d. per gall. ; kerosene, Devoe's, 4s. per gall. Tallow, 35s. per cwt. Quicksilver, 3s. 6d. per lb. Picks : Single-ended, 46s. per dozen ; double, 72s. per dozen. Shovels : Long-handled, Day's, 72s. per dozen ; Ames', 78s. per dozen ; D-handled, Day's, 72s. per dozen ; Ames', 78s. per dozen. Pick-handles : Hickory, 16s. per dozen; Colonial, 12s. per dozen, Hammer-handles : Hickory, 15s. per dozen ; Colonial, 10s. per dozen. Cornish shovels, 48s. per dozen. Flax packing, 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per lb. ; hemp ditto, 9d. per lb. Bar iron, BBH, 17s. per cwt. Shafting iron, 4 in. to 9 in., 32s. per cwt. Sheet iron, 20s. per cwt. Rail iron, 16s. per cwt. Fuze : Bickford's single tape, 10s. per dozen coils ; double tape, 12s. 6d. per dozen coils. Steel : Cast, 60s. per cwt. ; octagon, Johnson's, 55s. per cwt. ; S.S.S. ditto, 52s. per cwt. ; blister 48s. per cwt. ; shear, 55s. per cwt. ; spring, 30s. per cwt. Leather : English, 2s. 9d. per lb. ; Colonial, 2s. 3d. per lb. Guttapercha, sheet, 3s. 6d. per lb. Indiarubber, 3s. 3d. per lb. ; insertion, 3s. 9d. per lb. Indiarubber tubing, three-ply : ½ in., 1s. 1d. per foot ; ¾ in., 1s. 3d. per foot ; 1 in., 1s. 9d. per foot ; 1½ in., 2s. 3d. per foot ; 2 in., 3s. per foot. Firewood, 16s. per cord of 128 feet.

BENDOC.—Oil : Castor, about 7s. 6d. per gall. ; kerosene, 3s. 6d. per gall. Candles, sperm, 14s. per dozen lbs. Stamp-heads, shoes, and bottoms, 30s. to 40s. per cwt. Shovels (Collins') : Short-handled, 70s. per dozen ; long-handled, 96s. per dozen. Picks (Collins') : Hammer-headed, 70s. per. dozen ; double-ended, 78s. per dozen. Pick-handles, 12s. to 16s. per dozen. Iron, 30s. to 40s. per cwt. Steel, 60s. per cwt. Powder, blasting, 1s. per lb. Rope, Manilla, 5 inch, 78s. per cwt. ; ditto, 2½ inch, 78s. per cwt.

No. 54.

TABLE showing approximately the QUANTITY and COST of TIMBER consumed for Mining Purposes in the several MINING DISTRICTS during the Year 1876, from Returns made by the Mining Surveyors and Registrars.

				£	s.	d.
BALLARAT	Firewood, &c.	186,953 tons ...				
	Props and Cap-pieces	958,370 pieces ...				
	Laths and Slabs	1,134,152 pieces ...				
	Sawn Timber	1,500,703 feet	129,945	14	0
BEECHWORTH	Firewood, &c.	40,817 tons ...				
	Props and Cap-pieces	45,460 pieces ...				
	Laths and Slabs	214,500 pieces ...				
	Sawn Timber	186,000 feet	16,840	8	0
SANDHURST	Firewood, &c.	240,090 tons ...				
	Props and Cap-pieces	87,600 pieces ...				
	Laths and Slabs	95,200 pieces ...				
	Sawn Timber	622,500 feet ...	97,314	0	0
MARYBOROUGH ...	Firewood, &c.	83,352 tons ...				
	Props and Cap-pieces	370,544 pieces ...				
	Laths and Slabs	438,884 pieces ...				
	Sawn Timber	260,300 feet ...	44,661	11	0
CASTLEMAINE	Firewood, &c.	62,241 tons ...				
	Props and Cap-pieces	115,056 pieces ...				
	Laths and Slabs	150,658 pieces ...				
	Sawn Timber	220,916 feet ...	23,406	13	0
ARARAT	Firewood, &c.	33,100 tons ...				
	Props and Cap-pieces	59,890 pieces ...				
	Laths and Slabs	111,180 pieces ...				
	Sawn Timber	535,340 feet	16,979	18	0
GIPPSLAND	Firewood, &c.	15,890 tons ...				
	Props and Cap-pieces	3,369 pieces ...				
	Laths and Slabs	17,325 pieces ...				
	Sawn Timber	168,497 feet ...	8,252	19	0
	Total Cost		£328,401	3	0

No. 55.

THE FOLLOWING PARTICULARS, *which have been collected by the Mining Surveyors and Registrars, relate to the weight and cost of the Stamp-heads and Shanks or Lifters made use of in some of the principal Gold Mines in the several Mining Districts, and supply additional information connected with the process of crushing Quartz during the Year* 1876.

In the BALLARAT MINING DISTRICT the stamp-heads and shanks or lifters vary in weight from 4 cwt. to 8 cwt., and the cost is from 15s. to £5 10s. per cwt. The fall of the stamp-head ranges from 6 to 10 inches. The number of strokes made per minute is from 60 to 83. The quantity of quartz crushed per head per diem of 24 hours varies from 1 ton 9 cwt. to 3 tons 7 cwt. The number of holes per square inch in the gratings used is from 64 to 196. The horse-power required to work each stamper is from 1 to 2. The quantity of water used per stamp-head in crushing varies from 60 gallons to 800 gallons per hour. The quantity of mercury used in the ripples per stamper is from 9 to 30 lbs. The quantity of mercury lost per stamp-head per week is from ⅔ oz. to 3 ozs.

In the BEECHWORTH MINING DISTRICT the stamp-heads and shanks or lifters vary in weight from 3 cwt. to 9 cwt., and the cost is from £1 5s. to £13 per cwt. The fall of the stamp-head ranges from 6 to 11 inches. The number of strokes made per minute is from 56 to 80. The quantity of quartz crushed per head per diem of 24 hours varies from 1 ton to 2 tons 10 cwt. The number of holes per square inch in the gratings used is from 90 to 196. The horse-power required to work each stamper is from ¾ to 1¾. The quantity of water used per stamp-head in crushing varies from 50 gallons to 400 gallons per hour. The quantity of mercury used in the ripples per stamper is from 12 to 68 lbs. The quantity of mercury lost per stamp-head per week is from ¾ oz. to 10 ozs.

In the SANDHURST MINING DISTRICT the stamp-heads and shanks or lifters vary in weight from 5 cwt. to 9 cwt., and the cost is from 18s. to £1 10s. per cwt. The fall of the stamp-head ranges from 6 to 12 inches. The number of strokes made per minute is from 60 to 75. The quantity of quartz crushed per head per diem of 24 hours varies from 1 ton to 2 tons 10 cwt. The number of holes per square inch in the gratings used is from 80 to 225. The horse-power required to work each stamper is 1. The quantity of water used per stamp-head in crushing varies from 200 to 255 gallons per hour. The quantity of mercury used in the ripples per stamper is from 15 to 36 lbs. The quantity of mercury lost per stamp-head per week is 1 oz.

In the MARYBOROUGH MINING DISTRICT the stamp-heads and shanks or lifters vary in weight from 4 cwt. 2 qrs. to 8 cwt., and the cost is from 14s. to £1 1s. 6d. per cwt. The fall of the stamp-head ranges from 6 to 15 inches. The number of strokes made per minute is from 50 to 85. The quantity of quartz crushed per head per diem of 24 hours varies from 1 ton to 2 tons 10 cwt. The number of holes per square inch in the gratings used is from 60 to 180. The horse-power required to work each stamper is from 0·85 to 1¼. The quantity of water used per stamp-head in crushing varies from 60 to 400 gallons per hour. The quantity of mercury used in the ripples per stamper is from 7 to 35 lbs. The quantity of mercury lost per stamp-head per week varies from 1·50 to 12 ozs.

In the CASTLEMAINE MINING DISTRICT the stamp-heads and shanks or lifters vary in weight from 4 cwt. to 8 cwt. 1 qr., and the cost is from £1 to £8 per cwt. The fall of the stamp-head ranges from 6 to 15 inches. The number of strokes made per minute is from 45 to 74. The quantity of quartz crushed per head per diem of 24 hours varies from 1 ton to 3 tons 10 cwt. The number of holes per square inch in the gratings used is from 75 to 250. The horse-power required to work each stamper is from 0·75 to 1. The quantity of water used per stamp-head in crushing varies from 250 to 666 gallons per hour. The quantity of mercury used in the ripples per stamp-head is from 4 to 30 lbs. The quantity of mercury lost per stamp-head per week varies from 0·50 to 4 ozs.

In the ARARAT MINING DISTRICT the stamp-heads and shanks or lifters vary in weight from 2 cwt. to 9 cwt. and the cost is from £1 2s. to £4 per cwt. The fall of the stamp-head ranges from 6 to 10 inches. The number of strokes made per minute is from 60 to 75. The quantity of quartz crushed per head per diem of 24 hours varies from 1 ton to 2 tons 10 cwt. The number of holes per square inch in the gratings used is from 120 to 342. The horse-power required to work each stamper is from 0·5 to 1·25. The quantity of water used per stamp-head in crushing varies from 160 to 900 gallons per hour. The quantity of mercury used in the ripples per stamper is from 20 to 70 lbs. The quantity of mercury lost per stamp-head per week is from 1·6 to 29 ozs.

In the GIPPSLAND MINING DISTRICT the stamp-heads and shanks or lifters vary in weight from 4 cwt. 2 qrs. to 8 cwt., and the cost is from £1 to £144 per cwt. The fall of the stamp-head ranges from 6 to 10 inches. The number of strokes made per minute is from 50 to 84. The quantity of quartz crushed per head per diem of 24 hours varies from 5 cwt. to 20 tons. The number of holes per square inch in the gratings is from 80 to 144. The horse-power required to work each stamper is from 1 to 1·25. The quantity of water used per stamp-head in crushing varies from 50 to 480 gallons per hour. The quantity of mercury used in the ripples per stamper is from 4 to 200 lbs. The quantity of mercury lost per stamp-head per week varies from 1 to 12 ozs.

MINERALS OTHER THAN GOLD.

No. 56.

RETURN of the NUMBER of LEASES in force on the 31st December 1876 for the purpose of Mining for METALS AND MINERALS OTHER THAN GOLD.

Names of Metals and Minerals.	Number of Leases.	Area.		
		A.	R.	P.
Antimony	18	351	1	27
Argentiferous Galena	1	154	1	32
Coal	10	4,956	3	7
Coal Shale or Lignite	1	640	0	0
Copper and the Ores of Copper	2	872	3	13
Flagging	1	9	2	30
Lignite	1	475	2	10
Silver	2	370	1	16
Silver, Lead, and Copper	1	561	2	21
Slate	1	49	3	39
Slate and Flagging	2	19	2	25
Ironstone	1	320	1	35
Red Ochre Clay	1	2	0	14
Tin, and the Ores of Tin	8	1,076	0	6
Tin and Iron	1	51	1	39
Totals	51	5,912	1	34

No. 57.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of LICENSES to SEARCH for METALS OR MINERALS OTHER THAN GOLD issued during the Year 1876.

Names of Metals and Minerals.	Number of Licenses.	Extent of Ground held under such Licenses.		
		A.	R.	P.
Coal	7	3,938	1	30
Antimony	1	37	0	9
Copper and Lead	1	297	1	15
Tin-ore	1	120	0	0
Coal, Lignite, and Kerosene	1	640	0	0
Copper, Silver, and Lead	1	640	0	0
Iron-ore	1	80	0	0
Totals	13	5,752	3	14

NOTE.—Fees are charged for Searching Licenses in accordance with the following scale:—

	£	s.	d.
For an area exceeding 320 acres, but not exceeding 640 acres, per annum	10	0	0
" 160 " " 320 " "	5	0	0
" 80 " " 160 " "	2	10	0
" 64 " " 80 " "	1	5	0
And for any area not exceeding 64 acres	1	0	0

(*Vide* Notice published in the *Government Gazette* of 2nd December 1864.)

No. 58.

RETURN of the NUMBER of MINERAL LEASES issued in the Year 1876, and the EXTENT of GROUND LEASED.

Names of Metals and Minerals.	Number of Leases.	Area.		
		A.	R.	P.
Antimony	6	103	1	9
Copper and the Ores of Copper	2	872	3	13
Slate and Flagging	1	6	0	0
Tin and Iron	1	51	1	39
Tin and the Ores of Tin	5	231	1	16
Totals	15	1,264	3	37

METALLIFEROUS MINERALS, COALS, LIGNITE, CLAYS, SLATES, AND MISCELLANEOUS MINERALS.

METALLIFEROUS MINERALS.

SILVER.

According to the returns made to the Department, the following quantities have been raised:—

—	Silver Ores.	Silver.
	tons cwt.	ozs. dwts. grs.
Previously—up to 31st December 1875	12,780 0	58,469 4 4
From 1st January to 31st December 1876 ...	3,388 10	516 11 12
Extracted at the Mint	...	25,839 16 7
Totals	16,168 10	84,825 11 23

The following statement of Exports has been supplied by the Customs Department:—

Year.	Silver Ores.	Silver.
	tons cwt.	ozs. dwts.
1861	10 6	...
1864	...	4,207 15
1865	...	4,954 0
1867	...	366 2
1868	...	5,604 9
1871	...	236 0
1875	...	12,165 10
1876	...	14,704 11
Totals	10 6	42,238 7

The London and St. Arnaud Gold and Silver Mines Company raised 1,220 tons of ore during the year 1876. The quantity reduced was 1,220 tons, from which 308 ozs. 7 dwts. were obtained, representing a value of £104 17s. 2d. The amount of pure gold obtained was 230 ozs. 16 dwts. 9 grs., representing an estimated value of £928 15s. 8d. The stone was taken from Semiramis Reef, Clark's Reef, Cross Reef, Rotten Reef, Alice May Reef, Albion Reef, Armenian Reef, and Silver Reef. Some portions of the tailings were reworked.

The Chrysolite Gold Mining Company during the year 1876, from 2,042 tons of quartz and 3,140 tons of tailings, obtained 228 ozs. 2 dwts. of silver, which realised a sum of £56 8s. 1d. The pure gold obtained was 1,598 ozs. 17 dwts. 1 gr., representing a value of £6,135 2s. 9d. The mine is now being worked at 650 feet in depth. About 30 men have been employed during 1876, and are still working.

The lessees of a lease at St. Arnaud report that the quantity of stone raised by them was 126 tons 10 cwt. The produce obtained by smelting was 59 ozs. 12 dwts. 13 grs. of gold and silver mixed. Although prospecting for silver, the returns were principally gold, and were sold to the banks according to value.

The Mining Surveyor and Registrar at St. Arnaud states in his quarterly reports that the London and St. Arnaud Gold and Silver Mines Company have had a number of tributers at work and have prospected their ground in various places. The Rising Star Company have also had several tributers at work.

A sample of ferruginous gossan containing chloride of silver, from the Gift Reef, Bethanga, gave upon assay an amount of silver equal to 14 ozs. 8 dwts. 22 grs. per ton. In a sample of dense gossan from the same locality, which gave results equal to 2 ozs. 18 dwts. 19 grs. of gold per ton, traces of silver and copper were discovered.

About the middle of the year a quantity of stone from the claim of Messrs. Purdie Brothers, Percydale, was reduced, the result being a large bar of metal. The bar had a bright silvery appearance, with plain indications of mundic and gold, and possessing a metallic ring quite different from the dull sound produced by the percussion of simply base metal. Its weight was 107 lbs., and it was believed to contain galena or silvery lead, gold, and perhaps antimony. The bar has been sent to England for assay and separation.

A sample of copper pyrites, with carbonate of copper, from the New Year's Gift Prospecting Claim, Bethanga, upon assay, besides copper and gold, gave 2 ozs. 12 dwts. 6 grs. of silver to the ton. Another sample of copper pyrites from the same locality was found to contain an amount of silver equal to 1 oz. 19 dwts. 5 grs. per ton. In a third sample forwarded from Bethanga for analysis, traces of silver were discovered.

During the year 1876 the quantity of silver extracted from gold at the Royal Mint amounted to 25,839·97 ozs., which, at the current rate of 5s. per oz., represents a value of £6,459 19s. 10d. The amount was extracted as follows:—

	ozs.
1st quarter ended March	5,560·17
2nd quarter ended June	6,816·24
3rd quarter ended September	6,573·86
4th quarter ended December	6,889·97
Total	25,839·97

The quantity of fine silver sold by the Mint the same year was—

	ozs.
1st quarter ended March	3,467·39
2nd quarter ended June	2,469·30
3rd quarter ended September	3,151·40
4th quarter ended December	3,938·32 13,586·48
Total	26,612·89

It may, at first sight, seem somewhat incongruous that a larger quantity than was extracted should be sold. But the explanation is easy. In former years the quantity sold was below that extracted, and a balance of silver remained in the custody of the Mint. The surplusage therefore above what was extracted in 1876 is made up from the balance of the fine silver remaining on hand. Of the amount sold, 14,704·76 ozs. were exported, and 11,908·13 ozs. were used in Victoria by silversmiths and jewellers, and in the manufacture of the nitrate of silver required for photographic operations.

Two leases are in force to mine for silver over an area of 370a. 1r. 16p.; and one to mine for silver, lead, and copper, extending over 561a. 2r. 21p.; and one for argentiferous galena, on an area of 154a. 1r. 32p.

One license was issued during the year to search for silver, copper, and lead over an area of 640 acres.

TIN.

The following statement of Exports has been received from the Customs Department :—

Tin Ore.	tons	cwt.	Tin.	lbs.
Previously—up to 31st December 1875 ...	4,134	6	Previously—up to 31st December 1875 ...	452,016
From 1st January to 31st December 1876	Nil		From 1st January to 31st December 1876 ...	77,168
Total	4,134	6	Total	529,184

The following information relative to the quantity of tin-ore raised in the Beechworth district has been supplied by Mr. A. Alderdice, Warden's Clerk at Beechworth :—

Tin (black sand) raised :—	tons	cwt.
Eldorado	21	0
Woolshed, Sheepstation Creek, Pilot Creek, and Blacksand Creek ...	6	0
Total	27	0

About 7 tons 10 cwt. of tin-ore were smelted, and yielded 70 per cent. of pure metal. The price of black sand ranges from £24 to £32 per ton.

The Ovens Gold and Tin Company's shaft at Eldorado was reported to have been bottomed at a depth of 276 feet, and 120 lbs. of black sand (tin ore) had been obtained from the bottom.

The falling off in the out-put of black sand is attributable to the extremely low price now offering for it, and to the want of water during the past year. Some of the tin miners had not sufficient water to work with more than a week, and this only when it was raining. At the present time the stanniferous creeks are completely deserted.

Mr. Peter Wright, Mining Surveyor, reports that in the Mitta Mitta division there are two men working for tin at the head of the Cudgewa Creek, and intimates that this is all that remains of the Koetong tin rush.

The lessees of a tin mine at the head of the La Trobe River, Gippsland, report having raised about 1 ton of ore, but that they were unable to begin smelting operations, as the state of the roads precluded them from getting bricks and other heavy materials for the construction of furnaces on to the claim.

The lessees of a mine on the La Trobe River report that tin is being raised, and that sluicing operations have commenced. About £8,000 has, since January 1876, been expended in constructing a tail race, a head race, building huts, and making tracks; 6,400 cubic yards of hard grey sandstone have been blasted out of the river bed.

A lease in the same locality is being prospected by six men, while in another several of the gullies are being prospected, and the river is being drained towards the lease.

The lessees of a tin lease on McCrae's Creek, in the St. Andrew division, report that the works are progressing, and that about £200 has been expended. No quantity of tin worth speaking of has as yet been raised.

The Mining Surveyor and Registrar for the St. Andrew's division, in his quarterly reports, states that McCrae's Creek has been found to contain rich deposits of stream tin. The black sand is found in the bed of the stream, at a depth of about six inches below the ordinary sand, in such quantities that the prospectors obtained about a ton weight in three weeks, with no other appliances than a tin dish, pick, and shovel. He also states that the Victoria Stream Tin Company have completed their tail race, which was executed under great difficulties, comprising three cuttings through the hardest description of granite, which could not be penetrated without the aid of dynamite. This work, when completed, will drain the river to its bed, and it is intended to direct the stream by means of a dam and race, a mile of which was completed in the month of September last. The company's operations have been seriously impeded by reason of the track to the mine being all but impassable during the winter months.

The North Gippsland No. 2 Prospecting Party found samples of black sand near the Slaty Creek, which, upon analysis, were discovered to consist of cassiterite with titaniferous iron-sand.

The mines of the Victoria Stream Tin Company are situated about thirty miles from Cannibal Creek, on the Gippsland coach road. Captain Eddy, who claims to have had experience in tin mining in Cornwall and elsewhere, was sent out from England to report upon the capabilities of the mines. After spending six weeks upon the ground, he reported that he found stream tin deposits varying in depth from 6 feet to 30 feet from the surface, and from 6 inches to 3 feet thick all over the flat, embracing an area of from 500 feet to 1,000 feet in width through the valley. He believed the lease contained continuous and large payable deposits of stream tin, and that from the deepest part of the flat sufficient gold would be found to pay working expenses.

Mr. Braché, in his report on these mines, says :—"The searches of the prospectors in every gully and stream resulted in finding alluvial tin, which, in the La Trobe River, contains a fair percentage of alluvial gold similarly disseminated through the black sand as that found on the Woolshed diggings, Ovens. This percentage of gold to the stream tin in the La Trobe valley has been variously estimated by the prospectors at from ½ oz. to 2 ozs. to the bucket of stream tin of 200 lbs., or at from 10 ozs. to 40 ozs. to the ton of alluvial tin."

A sample of sand from Possum Hill, Orville, containing cassiterite, iron-ore, zircons, and a quantity of crystalline sand, gave as a whole upon assay 28·5 per cent. of metallic tin. The locality from which the sample was obtained was not before known to be stanniferous.

Two samples of sand from Gippsland (the exact localities from which the samples were obtained were not stated) were submitted for analysis. One, composed of chiefly cassiterite (oxide of tin) gave upon assay 52 per cent. of tin. The sand contained, besides tin-ore, an amount of gold equal to 12½ grains per pound. The other sample consisted of cassiterite, and gave upon assay 66 per cent. of tin. The gold present was water-worn, and was equal to 84 ozs. 16 dwts. 16 grs. per ton.

Another sample of stream tin-ore gave on assay 62 per cent. of tin, and no other metal was detected. The locality in which this sample was discovered was withheld.

Eight leases were in force to mine for tin and ores of tin over 1,076a. 0r. 6p., and one for tin and iron extending over 51a. 1r. 39p.

One lease was issued during the year to mine for tin and iron over an area of 51a. 1r. 39p., and five to mine for tin and ores of tin over an area of 231a. 1r. 16p.

One license to search for tin-ore over 120 acres was also issued.

COPPER.

According to the returns received, the following quantities of copper ore have been raised :—

	tons.
Previously—up to 31st December 1875	1,567
From 1st January to 31st December 1876	37
Total	1,604

The following statement of Exports has been received from the Customs Department:—

	Copper.	Copper Ore.
	tons cwt.	tons cwt.
Previously—up to 31st December 1875	89 0	36 1
From 1st January to 31st December 1876	Nil	Nil
Totals	89 0	36 1

The lessees of a copper mine at Walhalla report that during the past year 37 tons of yellow ore have been raised.

The Mining Registrar for the Stringer's Creek division states, in his quarterly reports, that the Walhalla Copper Mining Company have been engaged in making fire-bricks on the ground, and in pulling down the old smelting furnaces preparatory to erecting new ones, and expect to commence smelting operations shortly. The company have been working most vigorously, and give employment to a considerable number of men. They have also been opening up their mine. The lode is looking well.

A sample, consisting of copper pyrites, with some iron pyrites and blue and green carbonates of copper (the locality in which it was found not being named), was submitted for analysis. By assay it was ascertained that it would yield about 25 per cent. of metallic copper. This ore resembles closely the ores from the outcrop of the rich South Australian copper lodes.

A sample of copper pyrites, with carbonate of copper, from Bethanga, gave upon assay 20 per cent. of copper, and an amount of gold equal to 19 dwts., and of silver 2 ozs. 12 dwts. 6 grs. per ton. Another sample of copper pyrites from the same place gave upon assay, in addition to 1 oz. 19 dwts. 4 grs. of gold, 1 oz. 19 dwts. 5 grs. of silver per ton and 14 per cent. of copper; and a sample of copper and iron pyrites from Bethanga was found upon assay to contain, in addition to traces of gold and silver, 20·4 per cent. of metallic copper.

A specimen from a locality not named was found to consist of mixed sulphate of copper and zinc, and some iron pyrites. An assay of an average portion gave 11·30 per cent. of metallic copper, and an amount of gold equal to 1 oz. 6 dwts. 3 grs. to the ton.

The gold might be extracted from this ore by treating it in the same manner as auriferous pyrites (roasting and amalgamation). The residue from this treatment would be a sand containing over 20 per cent. of copper, present chiefly as oxide. Or, if near water carriage, the ore might be shipped to England, where the sulphur, as well as gold and copper, would be utilized. Large quantities of much poorer pyritous ores are sent to England from the continent of Europe and America.

At the end of the year there were two leases in force to mine for copper and ores of copper over an area of 872a. 3r. 13p., and one to mine for copper, lead, and silver over 561a. 2r. 21p. Two leases were issued to mine for copper and ores of copper over an area of 872a. 3r. 13p. One license to search for copper, silver, and lead over 640 acres, and one to search for copper and lead over 297a. 1r. 15p., were issued.

ANTIMONY.

According to returns received, the following quantities have been raised:—

Antimony Ore.	tons	cwt.	qrs.
Previously—up to 31st December 1875	12,947	13	1
From 1st January to 31st December 1876	2,529	5	2
Total	15,476	18	3

The following statement of Exports has been received from the Customs Department:—

—	Antimony Ore.	Antimony Regulus.	Antimony.	Crude.
	tons cwt.	tons cwt.	tons cwt.	tons cwt.
Previously—up to 31st December 1875 ...	8,557 12	1,067 19	430 1	Nil
From 1st January to 31st December 1876 ...	606 19	474 2	Nil	254 4
Totals	9,164 11	1,542 1	430 1	254 4

The Warden at Blackwood reports that a vein of antimony has been discovered near Golden Point, Blackwood. The vein, which is said to be from 2 to 4 inches wide, is situated on the margin of the Lerderderg Creek.

The lessees of an antimony claim at Ringwood report having raised, during the year 1876, 372 tons 0 cwt. 2 qrs. of antimony-ore. The company sell the ore to various firms in Melbourne, who smelt it; consequently no smelting is done on the mine. The lessees of another claim in the same locality state that close upon 13 tons 16 cwt. of ore have been raised. The lessees of a third mine at Ringwood report that, though they have been prospecting for the reef, they have not as yet succeeded in finding it. On a fourth antimony mine at Ringwood the lessees report that a shaft has been sunk to a depth of 125 feet, and is being extended another 25 feet. The lessees of an antimony mine at Costerfield report that during the year 1,960 tons of ore have been raised; 300 tons were smelted, from which 146 tons of metallic antimony were obtained. The lessees of a mine at South Costerfield state that 179 tons 9 cwt. have been raised. About 176 tons have been smelted, which yielded 22 tons 2 cwt. 1 qr. of crude metal, and 26 tons 1 cwt. 2 qrs. of oxide.

The Mining Surveyor and Registrar for St. Andrew's division reported—"At Ringwood antimony mines, Messrs. Boardman and Co. have a 40-horse power engine for winding and pumping, and other companies are prospecting for the reef."

The Mining Surveyor and Registrar for the Alexandra division, in his quarterly report, states that the antimony lode prospected for at Merton was cut at the depth of 76 feet, and the shaft continued to a depth of 100 feet. The thickness of the lode is 12 inches where cut. It is a fine sample, being very pure.

A sample of sulphide of antimony (stibnite), with oxide of antimony and quartz, from a reef at Blackwood 2 to 6 inches in width and 2 feet beneath the surface, gave upon assay 60 per cent. of metallic antimony. In a sample of sulphide of antimony from the Hope claim, Wood's Point, the ore was found to be of good quality, but to make it marketable it would have to be dressed to free it from quartz.

Two samples of antimony-ore, locality not mentioned, were submitted for analysis. The one was computed to lose about one-sixth in dressing, and upon assay yielded 60 per cent. of metallic antimony. The second sample was found not to require dressing, and upon assay gave 58 per cent. of metallic antimony. From the former, gold equal to 6 dwts., and from the latter, equal to 19 dwts. per ton, was obtained.

In May last it was reported that a large piece of antimony-ore had been discovered near the Merri Creek, at the village of Thomastown, in the vicinity of Preston. As the nature of the surrounding ground seemed to point to the presence of the metal mentioned, sinking operations were commenced. Several professional gentlemen were brought from Melbourne, who at once expressed it as their belief that the indications were genuine. At the depth of 10 feet the prospects were found to be such as to induce the belief that antimony would certainly be found. A company was formed to work the ground, and it was resolved to sink a shaft at the cost of about £150.

About 4 tons of antimony-ore have been received in Melbourne from the Sunday Creek claim, in the Avoca district, which was smelted and yielded 1 ton. 10 cwt. of antimony. The vein at the mine is said to look highly promising.

At the end of the year there were in force eighteen leases to mine for antimony over an area of 351a. 1r. 27p. Six leases to mine for antimony, over an area of 103a. 1r. 9p., were issued during the year. One license to search for antimony, over an area of 37a. 0r. 9p., was issued.

LEAD.

According to returns received, it appears that the following quantities of lead-ore have been raised:—

	tons	cwt.	qrs.
Previously—up to 31st December 1875	568	0	0
From 1st January to 31st December 1876	17	6	0
Total	585	6	0

The following statement of Exports has been received from the Customs Department:—

	Lead Ore.		Lead.	
	tons	cwt.	tons	cwt.
Previously—up to 31st December 1875	66	18	0	1
From 1st January to 31st December 1876	Nil		Nil	
Total	66	18	0	1

The manager of a mine at Murindal, Gippsland, reports that during the year 1876 the amount of galena raised was 17 tons 6 cwt. This quantity, together with 29 tons 12 cwt. raised previously, making a total of 46 tons 18 cwt., was smelted, the yield of lead being 17 tons 7 cwt. 3 qrs.

A bar of metal, 107 lbs. weight, was the result of the reduction of a quantity of stone from a claim at Percydale, near Avoca. The bar, which is supposed to contain lead, silver, gold, and antimony, has been sent to England for assay.

At the end of the year one lease was in force to mine for argentiferous galena over an area of 154a. 1r. 32p., and one to mine for lead, silver, and copper over an area of 561a. 2r. 21p. One license to mine for lead and copper over 297a. 1r. 15p., and one to search for lead, silver, and copper over 640 acres, were issued.

BISMUTH.

The Warden at Maldon reports the discovery of bismuth in the locality shown on the Geological Quarter-sheet 14 S. W., Maldon, and described in Notes 57 and 58, 1866, reprinted in "The Gold Fields and Mineral Districts of Victoria," page 421. The deposit may yet be of commercial value, as the miners in the locality are prospecting to ascertain its extent. The Warden states he is endebted for the information to Mr. John Hornsby, the Chairman of the Committee of the Maldon Athenæum and Mining Museum.

A sample of ore from a locality not named was submitted for examination. Upon analysis, traces of bismuth were detected, combined with copper pyrites, iron pyrites, and blue and green carbonates of copper.

IRON.

According to returns received, it appears that the following quantities of iron-ore have been raised:—

	tons	cwt.
Previously—up to 31st December 1875	414	0
From 1st January to 31st December 1876	5	0
Total	419	0

The following statement of Exports has been received from the Customs Department:—

	Iron Ore.	
	tons	cwt.
Previously—up to 31st December 1875	10	8
From 1st January to 31st December 1876	Nil	
Total	10	8

Mr. W. H. Gaunt, Warden at Ballarat, reports that the Lal Lal Iron Company are working the deposit at Lal Lal. The company are engaged in putting down additional machinery, and in erecting a new blast furnace.

Mr. Thomas Cowan, the Mining Surveyor and Registrar for the Gordon subdivision of the Ballarat mining district, reports that in the early part of the year the Lal Lal Iron Company ceased operations for the purpose of reorganization. In order, however, to facilitate operations when again commenced, sixteen men were employed on the company's leasehold burning charcoal and repairing roads. During the last quarter of the year a site was excavated on which to erect machinery, and 5 tons of ore were raised.

The operations hitherto carried on by the Lal Lal Company were chiefly intended as a test, and to prove that iron could be manufactured at Lal Lal. This has been done, and work on a more extensive scale may be soon expected. The mine is situated on the Mount Doran Ranges, about three miles to the south-east of the Lal Lal railway station. Two beds have been opened up, and both have been proved to be 9 feet thick. The yield from some of the ore smelted has been as high as 65 per cent. Fuel is found in abundance on the ranges. Within the company's lease there is a plentiful supply of firewood for many years to come; this is used for the engine-boiler only, the charcoal for the furnace being burned outside the lease by a party of charcoal burners, who have located themselves it the neighborhood. Flux alone is wanting, and this has to be obtained from the limestone quarries at Geelong, and can be landed at the works for £1 per ton.

Iron-ore has been discovered in the neighborhood of Mount Egerton, and close to the main road leading to Ballarat. Limestone exists within eight miles from the spot where the ore was obtained. A sample of what is considered to be iron-ore has been found in the Otway Forest, near the Gellibrand River, by William Rafer, a splitter.

Some iron-ore obtained from near the junction of the Back Creek with the Bendigo Creek has been operated on by Mr. Challinder, of Short street, Sandhurst, the result being a grey, soft, tenacious pig-iron, and a fine-grained white iron, said to be well suited for stampers and other crushing apparatus. In order to give it such a test as will determine its commercial value, as compared with other irons, Mr. Lansell, of Sandhurst, has requested that a complete battery of stamps may be made for him from this metal. Mr. Challinder states that the supply of ore is very large, and that flux suitable for the purposes of reduction is plentiful in its immediate neighborhood.

A sample of sand was obtained by Mr. A. W. Howitt, the Warden at Bairnsdale. Upon examination it was found to be pure chrome iron-sand. If found in quantity it would prove valuable, as its price in England ranges from £6 to £8 per ton. While prospecting the head of the Tambo River, the North Gippsland No. 2 Prospecting Party discovered samples of black sand, which on analysis were found to be titaniferous iron-sand from Crowstick Creek; titaniferous iron-sand with quartz from Slaty Creek; titaniferous iron-sand with cassiterite from the same locality.

The lessees of a lease at the White Hills, Sandhurst, report that small quantities of red ochre clay have been raised, and that samples have been despatched to England and India.

At the close of the year there was in force one lease to mine for ironstone over 320a. 1r. 35p., and one to mine for red ochre clay over 2a. 0r. 14p. One lease was issued during the year to mine for iron and tin over 51a. 1r. 39p. One license to search for iron-ore, over an area of 80 acres, was issued.

COAL AND LIGNITES.

COAL.

According to returns received, it appears that the following quantities have been raised :—

	tons	cwt.
Previously—up to 31st December 1875	5,456	8
From 1st January to 31st December 1876	1,095	0
Total	6,551	8

The Warden at Port Albert reports a rumor, wanting, however, confirmation, that a seam of coal has been found at Anderson's Inlet.

The lessees of a coal mine at Kilcunda report that operations were recommenced at the end of July 1876, and have since continued without interruption ; 1,095 tons of coal have been raised.

The lessees of a lease in the Strelezski Ranges report that they have bored down 320 feet, and have passed through several seams, but operations were temporarily suspended for want of roads.

The Mining Surveyor and Registrar for the St. Andrew's division, in his report for the quarter ending 31st December 1876, states that the coal workings at Kilcunda have been resumed, and that a considerable quantity of coal is being raised and sent to port. He considers a great drawback to the enterprise is the very defective nature of the permanent-way of the tramway.

Prospecting for coal in the Warrnambool district has been carried on vigorously for some time by the aid of private enterprise. Boring operations have been carried on a few miles west of the town of Warrnambool.

A discovery has been made of a seam of coal at Coleraine, where a shaft has been sunk on private land to a depth of 50 feet. The report sent in to the Mining Department states that a bed 12 inches thick was found at a depth of 14 feet. A specimen of this when analysed was found to contain 40 per cent. of pure carbon and 4 per cent. of ash. At a depth of 46 feet another seam was found of considerable thickness, with a bed of clay interlaying that and one beneath it, the latter being 3 feet 6 inches thick.

The Mining Registrar at Traralgon reported—"There are several parties engaged prospecting for coal, outcrops of which are to be found lying south of the second section of the Gippsland Railway."

A discovery of coal within a few miles of the railway at the Moe is reported to have been made. The specimens submitted for inspection to persons in Gippsland are stated to be a fine bituminous coal, highly inflammable, and containing little sulphur. The exposure at the outcrop of the vein slightly deteriorates it by comparison with Newcastle coal, which it closely resembles, in that the fracture is parallel with the plane of deposition. The thickness of the seam is reported to be 2 feet, with the prospect of increasing to 2 feet 6 inches or 3 feet.

There were in force at the end of the year ten leases to mine for coal over an area of 4,956a. 3r. 7p., and one lease to mine for coal shale over 640 acres. One license was issued during the year to search for coal over 3,938a. 1r. 30p., and one to search for coal, lignite, and kerosene over 640 acres.

LIGNITE.

According to returns received, it appears that the following quantities have been raised :—

	tons.	cwt.
Previously—up to 31st December 1875	3,708	0
From 1st January to 31st December 1876	315	6
Total	4,023	6

The Warden at Steiglitz reports that at Jones' River, in the Colac district, lignite has been discovered.

The lessees of a lease at Lal Lal stated, in their return of lessees' operations during the year 1876, that they have raised 315 tons 6 cwt. of lignite.

Samples of supposed lignite, discovered at South Colac, were found upon analysis to be chiefly carbonaceous shales of no economic value. One sample was found to be lignite, and would be of value as a fuel if found in sufficient quantity. It seems, however, to be a portion of a fossil tree. The sample gives in 100 parts—

Water	10·98
Volatile matter	40·26
Fixed carbon	45·78
Ash	2·98
	100·00

A sample of brown coal or lignite, from Coleraine, gave upon analysis—

Water	12·76
Volatile matter	30·08
Fixed carbon	32·04
Ash	25·12
	100·00

This sample contained much more ash, and is inferior to all previous samples received from Coleraine.

A discovery of lignite was made in the Cape Otway Forest, close to the junction of Love's River with the Gellibrand River. One of a surveying party observed a black rock near the river's bank, and chopped off a piece, which, on inspection, proved to be lignite. Mr. Newbery reported that the samples submitted to him represented an earthy and silicious lignite, and all containing pyrites. One of the samples was a pyrites nodule, coated with lignite. Some of the lignite would be of value for fuel if found in considerable quantities.

There was in force at the close of the year one lease to mine for lignite over an area of 475a. 2r. 10p., and one lease to mine lignite or coal shale over an area of 640 acres. One license to search for lignite, coal, and kerosene, over an area of 640 acres, was issued.

CLAYS.

According to returns received, the following quantities of kaolin have been raised :—

	tons	cwt.
Previously—up to 31st December 1875	1,832	14
From 1st January to 31st December 1876	Nil	
Total	1,832	14

The following statement of Exports has been received from the Customs Department:—

	tons	cwt.
Previously—up to 31st December 1875	25	0
From 1st January to 31st December 1876	Nil	
Total	25	0

The examination of the clays found near Beechworth proves that they are well fitted for the manufacture of pottery.

A sample of sandstone from Nunawading was examined. It was found to be composed for the most part of very fine quartz sand; in one part it is hard and dense, in another soft and pliable. It has all the character of the Upper Silurian sandstones, and is not suited for use as a building stone. The softer portions are suitable when crushed for the manufacture of refractory bricks and earthenware.

FLAGS AND SLATES.

FLAGGING.

According to returns received, it appears that the following quantities have been raised :—

	tons	cwt.	qrs.	square yards.
Previously—up to 31st December 1875	11,133	4	0	80,160
From 1st January to 31st December 1876	1,735	1	3	Nil
Totals	12,868	5	3	80,160

At the end of the year there were in force one lease to mine for flagging over an area of 9a. 2r. 30p., and two to mine for flagging and slate over an area of 19a. 2r. 25p. One lease was issued during the year to mine for flagging and slate over 6 acres.

SLATES.

The returns received show that there have been raised:—

	slates.	tons.
Previously—up to 31st December 1875	11,000	245
From 1st January to 31st December 1876	Nil	Nil
Totals	11,000	245

The lessees of a slate quarry at Castlemaine report having raised during the year 1,127 tons 17 cwt. 3 qrs. Most of the slate was forwarded to Melbourne, and converted into hearths, steps, sills, &c. A lessee of a lease at Barker's Creek reports having raised 557 tons 4 cwt., and the lessee of a quarry near Stawell returns 50 tons as the quantity raised during last year.

Slate has been discovered on the Hedi side of the King River, at a distance of about 50 miles from Beechworth. The sample obtained was about 10 inches by 4, and the finder states he could get it of any size and in any quantity. The sample was extraordinarily tough, with a cleavage so perfect that, except on close inspection, it might be taken for a portion of a schoolboy's slate.

A discovery was made during the year of freestone, about two miles and a half from the Kyneton railway station. The stone is of two kinds; one of a brown color, similar to that known as Tasmanian stringybark, and which was used in the erection of the Treasury and the Library of the Houses of Parliament. The other is a first-class white stone. The former description predominates, and can be obtained in blocks of from 20 feet long by from 6 to 10 feet in depth. Mr. Cosmo Newbery reports—"The stone is composed of a very fine-grained sharp silicious sand, cemented by aluminous cement. The stone is easily worked, and will harden on exposure. It has the power of resisting a breaking strain equal quite three times the Oamaru stone. Samples of the stone have been subjected to several severe tests, all of which it stood admirably, proving itself to be a very valuable building material, and one not likely to be affected by the atmosphere."

A quarry has been opened at One-tree Hill, near Sandhurst, from which some magnificent blocks of very hard Silurian sandstone has been obtained. Its durability is said to be undoubted. Some of the blocks measured 4 feet in width, 2 feet or more thick, by a length ranging from 6 to 9 feet.

A quarry of fine stone was discovered at Craigleith, on the estate of Mr. J. G. Carr, near the Colac road. Experts who have examined the stone pronounce it to be durable. It is said to be obtainable in any quantities.

A description of freestone, found near Bairnsdale, is being used in the construction of several stations on the third section of the Gippsland railway line, and is highly spoken of by those in charge of the works.

At the close of the year there were in force one lease to mine for slate over 49a. 3r. 39p., and two for slate and flagging over 19a. 2r. 25p. One lease to mine for slate and flagging, over an area of 6 acres, was issued.

MISCELLANEOUS MINERALS.

MALDONITE.

The Warden at Maldon reports that maldonite (gold smut) is found in his district in most of the claims on the Eaglehawk line of reef.

MANGANESE.

A specimen of earthy manganese ore (psilomelane) from the head of the Jamieson River, near Mount Buller, was found to be of no economic value, as it did not contain any cobalt. Other specimens of psilomelane, from the ranges near Mount Buller, have given a good percentage of cobalt. The ore, however, is of a very uncertain character, different parts of the same lump, seemingly of iron composition, giving upon analysis results often differing from 2 to 14 per cent. of cobalt.

A sample of ore from Riverdale, near Avoca, was upon examination found to consist of manganese ore, associated with brown tourmaline, an association which had not before come under the observation of Mr. Cosmo Newbery.

CALCSPAR.

The Warden at Maldon reports, upon the authority of Mr. John Hornsby, the chairman of the Maldon Athenæum and Mining Museum, that calcspar is found massive in veins parallel with the strike of a gold-bearing quartz reef at Eaglehawk.

LIMESTONE.

The Warden of the Benalla division of the Beechworth mining district reports that the limestone deposit at Dookie is being utilized, and that a lime-kiln is in operation.

A new quarry of limestone marble has been opened up, and said to be nearer to Melbourne than any other quarry of the same kind outside the Heads. For lime purposes the experiment of burning has given a result which is most satisfactory to the discoverers.

A deposit of limestone has been discovered about eight miles from Mount Egerton.

A description of black marble has been found in the neighborhood of Bairnsdale, which, on being ground, shows the shell formation of which it is composed very plainly.

A sample of an earthy fresh-water limestone, enclosing rounded fragments of iron-ore (liminite) and clayey rock from Ararat was submitted for examination. Some of the portions free from iron-ore gave upon analysis 48·40 per cent. of carbonate of lime, and 32·60 of clayey matter and sand, the latter in a very fine state of division. If this stone should occur in large quantities, it would be well to make some experiments in a small kiln in order to test the hydraulic value of the lime.

DOLOMITE.

A specimen from Loyola, in the Mansfield district, was forwarded for examination. It proved to be an argillaceous magnesian limestone nodule, and gave upon analysis—

Carbonate of lime	51·05
Carbonate of magnesia	32·09
Carbonate of iron	4·31
Silica and clay	12·08
Water	0·40
	99·84

Leaving the clay out of the analysis the composition is nearly that of true dolomite.

SULPHUR.

Several samples of sulphur containing carbon and iron have been received from Wood's Point. They all bear evidence, however, of having been melted and cast into blocks. Most probably the sulphur has been obtained from pyrites by the action of heat.

SERPENTINE.

A specimen of serpentine found on the range of which Mount Timbertop forms a part, at a point between the Devil's River and the Howqua River, was submitted for examination. This rock occurs largely at the base of Mount Timbertop. Some portions are of good color, and, as it cuts and polishes easily, it might be used as an ornamental stone for pedestals, chimney-pieces, &c. The water-power available in the district where it is found would enable the quarry to be easily worked and the stone to be sawn into slabs.

DIAMONDS.

Previously—up to 31st December 1875	107
From 1st January to 31st December 1876	Nil
Total	107

RUBIES, ZIRCONS, AND GARNETS.

The Mining Registrar for the Traralgon subdivision of the Gippsland mining district states, in his report for the quarter ending 31st December 1876, that rubies have been found in a tributary of the Traralgon Creek.

Zircons, and a quantity of a fine crystalline sand which closely resembles zircon-sand, has been found at Possum Hill, Orville. Zircon-sand has also been discovered in the mountain streams of the Walhalla ranges. All the zircons are crystalline, and some are nearly perfect.

The Warden at Maldon reports that garnet in thin veins is found occasionally in the sandstone in his district.

A description of garnet was discovered in the vicinity of Mount Buller by the Government party employed in prospecting that locality.

The following list gives the number of Victorian Gemstones cut by Mr. Spink, Melbourne, during the year :—

Sapphires, from Beechworth and Gippsland	6,	value	£3 0 0
Topazes, from Beechworth and Gippsland	50,	,,	18 15 0
Agates, various localities	20,	,,	2 10 0
Crystallised quartz, ditto	12,	,,	12 0 0
			£36 5 0

THOS. COUCHMAN,
Secretary for Mines.

Office of Mines,
Melbourne, 28th February 1877.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX A.

METALS (OTHER THAN GOLD), MINERALS, AND ORES IMPORTED INTO VICTORIA DURING THE YEAR 1876.

(*From Returns furnished by the Honorable the Commissioner of Trade and Customs.*)

Article.	Quantity.	Value.	Article.	Quantity.	Value.
		£			£
Antimony Ore ...	45 tons 8 cwt.	482	Quartz	49 tons 11 cwt.	143
„ Regulus ...	Nil	Nil	Quicksilver ...	102,765 lbs.	15,509
Arsenic	Nil	Nil	Silver	Nil	Nil
Asphalt	Nil	Nil	„ Ore	Nil	Nil
Coal	226,231 tons	277,531	Slates	Nil	Nil
Copper	1,121 cwt.	4,387	Slate Slabs	Nil	Nil
„ Ore	6 tons 12 cwt.	82	Spelter	5 cwt.	20
Iron, Ore	1 ton 1 cwt.	6	Steel	607 tons 6 cwt.	20,055
„ Pig	5,496 tons 3 cwt.	23,937	Sulphur	6,199 cwt.	2,500
Kerosene Shale ...	1,981 tons	6,048	Tin, Block	2,640 „	9,681
Lead	Nil	Nil	„ Ore	39 tons 2 cwt.	1,525
„ Ore	762 tons 10 cwt.	8,891	Zinc, Ingots ...	255 cwt.	296
„ Pig	45 „ 8 „	1,087	Ores, Mineral Earthy Clays, &c., unenumerated	201 tons 16 cwt.	2,103
Lime	1,341 „ 0 „	2,309			
Metal, Yellow ...	1,940 cwt.	7,806			
„ Unenumerated	334 „	470			
Plumbago	5 „	3	Total		£384,871

APPENDIX B.

METALS (OTHER THAN GOLD), MINERALS, AND ORES EXPORTED FROM VICTORIA DURING THE YEAR 1876.

(*From Returns furnished by the Honorable the Commissioner of Trade and Customs.*)

Article.	Quantity.	Value.	Article.	Quantity.	Value.
		£			£
Antimony, Crude ...	258 tons 5 cwt.	7,769	Quartz	Nil	Nil
„ Ore ...	606 „ 19 „	9,757	Quicksilver	14,378 lbs.	2,109
„ Regulus ...	474 „ 2 „	24,209	Silver	14,704 ozs. 11 dwts.	3,308
Arsenic	Nil	Nil	Slates	Nil	Nil
Coal	359 tons	605	Slate Slabs	Nil	Nil
Coke and Fuel ...	Nil	Nil	Spelter	209 tons 3 cwt.	4,386
Copper	108 cwt.	367	Steel	29 tons 10 cwt.	1,002
„ Ore	20 „	60	Sulphur	435 cwt.	370
Iron, Ore	Nil	Nil	Tin, Block	1,535 „	5,671
„ Pig	182 tons 5 cwt.	1,001	„ Ore	4 tons	173
Kaolin	Nil	Nil	Zinc, Ingots	98 cwt.	144
Kerosene Shale ...	Nil	Nil	Ores, Mineral Earthy Clays, &c., unenumerated	122 tons 13 cwt.	3,783
Lead, Pig	78 tons 5 cwt.	2,012			
„ Ore	1 „ 4 „	31			
Lime	431 „ 6 „	1,368			
Metal, Yellow ...	754 cwt.	2,908	Total		£71,051
„ Unenumerated...	2 „	18			

NOTE.—The figures in these tables are extracted from the returns published by the Honorable the Commissioner of Trade and Customs. The statements include only raw materials. Thus pig-iron is included, but not bars, rods, plates, or castings; lead and lead ore, but not piping or sheet lead; and so in like manner the others. The returns published by the Customs Department necessarily include all.

The quantities exported include metals, &c., *not the produce of Victoria.*

APPENDIX C.

RETURN SHOWING THE QUANTITY AND VALUE OF KEROSENE OIL IMPORTED INTO AND EXPORTED FROM THIS COLONY DURING THE YEAR 1876.

(*From Returns furnished by the Honorable the Commissioner of Trade and Customs.*)

IMPORTED.		EXPORTED.	
Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	£		£
729,937 gallons	58,460	381,901 gallons	32,827

By Authority: JOHN FERRES, Government Printer, Melbourne.